

HILL SAW PROFIT IN ERIE.

REPORTS OF HIS PAST PLANS WERE RUBBISH.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 15.—James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Company, today gave The Associated Press the following statement in answer to the reported absorption of the Erie road, the resignation of Mr. Hill as president of the Great Northern, and the allegation that he will take up the work of organizing a transcontinental line, taking in the Erie as a connecting link.

As to my resignation and taking up work of the organization of a new transcontinental line, the only thing I have done is to have my friends joined me in an investment in the Erie road, which is good property and capable of being made into a paying investment, as has been done with the Baltimore and Ohio. So far as trying to combine the combination of lines across the continent is concerned there is absolutely nothing in it. Such an undertaking would be too great for any one man to undertake, and it is impracticable. The conditions are too diverse to warrant any such attempt. In the East and West the business conditions are too far apart to put them under one management. Things are changing, but they exist. The whole proposition is nonsensical.

As to my retiring from the presidency of the Great Northern, I was re-elected to that position at the annual meeting of the road in October, and there is no likelihood of my getting out of it. I would be glad to be relieved of some of the burdens of the work, but do not mean to resign. Things are changing, but they exist. The whole proposition is nonsensical.

When Mr. Hill entered the Board of the Baltimore and Ohio it was reported that he was planning to establish a railway line from ocean to ocean, with the Great Northern and the Baltimore and Ohio as its Western and Eastern ends respectively, and either the Wisconsin Central or the Chicago Great Western, extending from Chicago to St. Paul, as the connecting link. A similar conclusion was jumped at by some imaginative minds when, a day or two ago, it was announced that Mr. Hill had been elected a director of the Erie, the guess being that the connecting link might be the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul.

FOR HARMONY IN COAL TRADE.

CLOSER ALLIANCE BETWEEN ANTHRACITE INTERESTS EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF MORGAN PURCHASE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—The purchase by J. P. Morgan & Co. of the Pennsylvania Coal Company in the interest of the Erie Railroad is looked upon in anthracite circles in this city as but incidental and preliminary to a still greater and closer alliance between the anthracite interests. It is said that the next move of the Morgan interests will be to purchase the anthracite interests of Cox, Brooks & Co. in the Hazleton field, and that several offers for the property have already been made. The tonnage of this firm, together with that of the Delaware, Susquehanna and Schuylkill Railroad, owned and controlled by it, is almost as large as that of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, its percentage of the anthracite allotment being 30 per cent.

PHILADELPHIA ADVISES AS TO PROBABILITY OF REMAINING INDEPENDENT ANTHRACITE PROPERTIES BEING BEFORE LONG PURCHASED BY THE INTERESTS WHICH HAVE ARRANGED FOR THE ABSORPTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COAL COMPANY.

The five-year contract between the Panama Railroad Company and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, covering joint traffic between New York City and Central America, Mexico and the Pacific Coast of the United States, expires by limitation to-day, and there seems no prospect of its renewal, at least in its present form.

NOTES OF RAILROAD NEWS.

Atlanta, Dec. 15.—A private dispatch received in Atlanta to-day from Washington announces the resignation of J. H. Barrett, general superintendent of transportation of the Southern Railway. Mr. Barrett will leave the Southern January 1 and take a position with a prominent Northern line.

Detroit, Dec. 15.—"The Tribune" to-day says that the street railways of Detroit have again been reorganized under a new consolidation, which will be known as the Detroit United Railway Company.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Both the common and preferred stocks of the Union Traction Company to-day dropped to the lowest points ever made on those stocks, the preferred selling off 14 1/2 points to 40, and the common to 8 1/2. Fear that the failure of the company to declare the usual quarterly dividend at the regular time resulted in a heavy liquidating movement in both common and preferred. The close was at 4 1/2 for preferred and 10 for common.

STEEL FOR CARACAS BUILDINGS.

Dr. Alberto Smith, ex-Minister of Public Works of Venezuela, was a passenger on the Red D Line steamer Philadelphia, which sailed yesterday for Trinidad. Dr. Smith, who is a civil engineer, came here to place orders for structural steel and other building materials to rebuild the portion of Caracas destroyed by the earthquake of October 28. He is to be used in the construction of fourteen buildings.

Fully one-third of the houses in Caracas were affected by the earthquake, but a noteworthy feature was that the structural steel frames were not damaged. This is a civil engineering feat, and it is expected, will open a wide field for American steel and iron in Venezuela, as that country always favors American contractors.

PAROLED IN FORGERY CASE.

WOMAN WHO ADMITS SIGNING LAWYER'S NAMES TO A CHECK FOR \$23,750 RELEASED.

Mrs. Margaret M. Heppenheimer, twenty-six years old, the wife of George Heppenheimer, a gateman on the elevated road, who was arrested by Detective Gargan, of the Central Office, for a check for \$23,750, which she admitted she had forged the names of Frederick B. House and Moses H. Grossman, the amount of which was \$23,750, was arraigned in the Centre-st. court yesterday and paroled on her own recognizance until next Tuesday at the suggestion of Assistant District Attorney Byrne.

Early last week Mrs. Heppenheimer, with Mr. Tallman, 100 West 11th-st., of Edinboro-ave., went to the office of Charles C. Dickinson, in the St. Paul Building, and asked him to cash a check for her. She said that she was absolutely without funds. She presented the check for \$23,750, with the signatures of House & Grossman on it, and asked that he let her have as much as he could on it. Mr. Dickinson made the following statement of what happened:

LOOKING FOR BLAIR AND HIS MINE

A GOLD DUST YARN BRINGS A WIDOW FROM LONDON ON A FRUITLESS QUEST.

F. H. Mackintosh, a lawyer, of No. 36 Liberty-st., is wondering these days if there is any such person as George Robert Blair. Mr. Blair, of course, must be a most remarkable person. He sent a letter to a dead man in London telling him to come over to New-York and get \$10,000 worth of gold dust from a mine which the London man had an interest in. The widow got the letter, and as she was her husband's executrix she lost no time in starting for New-York. But Mr. Blair, her dead husband's great friend, did not meet her here. The whole thing was a hoax.

The widow and her agent went back to London, starting on the Deutschland last week. When Mr. Pinkerton was seen yesterday at his office in New-York, he was asked if there was anything in the letter that could not have been learned from her husband's will published by an English paper. She thought it all over and said:

"This is the way the gold dust game is worked: The swindler gets the contract to mine in the death of some man in Europe from the public record. Then he writes a letter to the dead man, asking him to get the gold dust. He says he's struck it rich, and has a large quantity of gold dust all ready for him. The widow, of course, believes him, and she writes him back, promising to give him the gold dust. The swindler produces a lot of gold dust, but assures the victim that \$23,000 worth of gold dust is all that he has. He says that some antagonistic interest. Nothing must be said, however, as there would be a rush to the new El Dorado if the public knew of it. The swindler works, as a rule, I always turn inquirers over to the Police Department."

FRENCHMAN DISOWNS UNITED STATES.

Jean Pierre Guinet, an irate Frenchman, has written to John W. Looe, clerk of the Naturalization Bureau of the Supreme Court, renouncing his citizenship and returning his papers. Mr. Looe says he has no power to cancel them, and does not know how Guinet can obtain relief. Mr. Guinet says:

"From the time that I received it instead of getting the papers I was persecuted and spoliated. I beg to inform you that for receiving such treatment I would never be to your citizen, and I beg you gentlemen give me the information and never consider me any more like such."

OPPOSED TO COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

The labor unions are already up in arms over the announcement that Assemblyman Thomas M. Costello will introduce a bill in the Legislature providing for compulsory arbitration. Several of them held meetings last week and denounced compulsory arbitration in round terms.

OLD AND NEW ENGRAVINGS AND ETCHINGS.

Old and new engravings and etchings, including English sporting prints, portraits of eminent Americans and views of this city in its younger days are on sale at No. 37 Fifth-ave., where Max Williams is showing them. The attention is paid to the framing of Christmas gifts.

UNIQUE BROADWAY.

THE WHOLE ROUND GLOBE CANNOT MATCH ITS SPLENDORS OR ITS COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE.

IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ANY TRADE OR CALLING THAT IS NOT WELL REPRESENTED ON THIS THOROUGHPARE—EVERY QUARTER OF THE EARTH IS HANSACKED TO SUPPLY ITS NEEDS.

No city in the world has a street like Broadway. If this claim is a broad one, it is fully capable of demonstration. It is not only the main artery of the city's business; it is the highway which carries a very great degree of the people to their pleasure. Confining the events to comparatively modern times, it was through Broadway that marched the wonderful procession of jubilation over the successful laying of the first Atlantic Cable.

Then, during the four terrible years of the great Civil War what tragic parents were the constant tramp of armed men going to the front. In 1865 Broadway was the scene of a nation's mourning. Abraham Lincoln, the President, with malice toward none, with charity for all, had fallen by the bullet of an assassin, and in the procession behind his funeral car walked thousands of the best men in New-York—merchants, clerical men, professional men, some of them so firm that the mere physical exertion involved was a severe strain upon their strength.

Here takes place the annual polo parade, where are exhibited the finest and most mismanaged body of men in the world. Here, every day, the city's citizens look out to Broadway, sure that on that thoroughfare they may participate in whatever may be going on. The amount of business transacted on Broadway is simply beyond computation, while its variety is so comprehensive that it is hardly a human need that might not be filled in scores of places, in a stroll between Fourth and Fifty-ninth-sts.

It would, of course, be impossible in this limited space even to enumerate a small portion of the business enterprises that flourish along Broadway's busy sidewalks, but among the few that may be cited are the great dry-goods houses whose markets are the whole North and South American continents, and whose departments cover almost the entire range of domestic needs for men, women, and children. The stores are so numerous and so well equalled in the country, perhaps in the world, for their magnificent art collections, watches, silverware, ceramics, glassware and bric-a-brac; and photographic artists of exquisite skill, milliners, pianos, dealers and music stores, real estate offices, and amusement and play-places.

AN EFFICACIOUS CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.

RINGS have played important parts in the world's history ever since history began. Among the early Egyptians it had its place in the marriage ceremony. It is symbolic of eternity—a thing without end.

The youngest and the mightiest member of the great family of nations—our own country—has not at the present position without some experience with rings. Men still speak with bated breath of the profits of the whiskey ring. Coming nearer home, our fair city of Manhattan had its Tweed ring, made of the toughest material known in history—but that ring had an end. As amulets, charms and talismans, rings have been used as far back as man has been able to make them.

"I am wearing Kimball's Ring, and am very well satisfied with it, and I was so pleased that I would like to see it. I would not part with it for one for many dollars. It is doing me good, as well as those persons to whom I have recommended it, and I have yet to hear of one who has not been benefited by it. So far as I am concerned I endorse the ring fully."

A SOUND INSTRUMENT IN A SOUND BODY.

The value of heredity and environment are well exemplified in the phenomenal skill—and hence the phenomenal success—in piano construction of the firm of J. & C. Fischer, of No. 33 Union Square. Their father was a piano maker, and his father before him, in Naples, Italy, away back in 1788. Thus for more than a century has the delicate skill and tone sense, essential in this art, cultivated in the blood and bred in the bone of this family, with the result that to-day the instruments turned out by them are accepted throughout the country at their face value. Their worth has been established in the homes and concert rooms of the people since 1840, when this firm succeeded Nunn & Fischer, whose antecedents stretch back to the beginning of the century.

Confidence is a delicate plant of slowest growth, and is easily destroyed. The house of J. & C. Fischer has won it by an elaborate and upright construction that each one has been an advertisement for another. The public verdict is that the firm is as "grand and upright" as its splendid pianos. No lay no claim to making the lowest priced pianos in the world. They aptly quote the phrase "kathring figs from thistles or grapes from thorns" and make it their motto. They do not buy from the best materials by the most skillful artisans. To offer such instruments for very low prices would be to sell their own souls.

A BIG CHOICE, MANY CHOOSERS.

The firm of Arnold, Constable & Co., at Nineteenth-st. and Broadway, is one of the great popular dry-goods houses whose Christmas shoppers may be found by the hundreds. Founded seventy-three years ago, the firm spent its infancy at Canal and Mercer sts. Four years after the close of the Civil War the present quarters of the firm were thrown open, and since that date increasing business has followed in the train of larger experience and an augmentation of capital.

The December novelties are many, and it is noteworthy that the majority of the new Christmas goods are articles of utility. The men's smoking jackets, in plain velveteen or embroidered silk, are just the thing for the home-staying husband, and the dressing gowns, of Japanese style, are splendid presents to men. The women's jackets, in gold and silver, are just the thing for the home-staying wife. There are faithful, home-staying boleros and bed-brothers. The lace fans, mounted on ivory sticks, are ablaze with gold and silver, and are particularly chic for the opera and the theatre.

AT THE SIGN OF THE REMBRANT STUDIO.

There is a peculiar sign on the building 128 Broadway. At first sight one is for a moment doubting whether he is in the middle of the seventeenth century or the beginning of the twentieth.

It reads "Rembrant Studio," in the quaint old lettering that the great artist himself might have used. The signboard itself is an old rough board barked jaggedly at each end. Within the studio the proprietor, Mr. Joseph H. Adams, offers the appreciative public the opportunity of securing pictures of themselves, taken in such artistic fashion as is shown in the specimens herewith. Each sitter is taken in two positions and two pictures are produced in each position. The whole time occupied from the beginning of the sitting until the finished pictures are returned, mounted and complete, is just thirty minutes, while the artistic and artistic work and beauty of finish—they are mounted on the wall.

Christmas shoppers are very much in evidence at Tiffany & Co.'s splendid exhibition of holiday attractions. The force of clerks has been greatly increased to meet the increased demand for trade. For many years their holiday display of diamonds and precious stone jewelry has commanded attention, and this season the exhibition of choice gems, gathered from all over the world, bids fair to exceed past collections in its scope and attractiveness. There are some beautiful bracelets of diamonds and fine gold, and brooches of large rubies and sapphires and emeralds and pearls.

THE KEEPER OF THE KEYS.

Why don't they call it "St. Peter's Co."? Then the public would understand its object at once. Every one has trouble about his keys sometimes. Some people have trouble all the time. It is bad enough when the keys are in the pocket of one's "other trousers," and they are dropped in the street or some public place the less desirable—unless the clavier has taken the precaution to have the keys engraved with the name of the New-York Registry Company, No. 138 Broadway, which bears his registered number and this legend, "Return to the New-York Registry Company, No. 138 Broadway, New-York, One Dollar Reward."

UP TO DATE DENTAL SPECIALTIES.

The rapid success in New-York of men who carry on business honorably is a perennial source of surprise to such as attempt it in less worthy fashion. This remark is prompted by a recent visit of inspection to the establishment of Aderer Bros., at No. 128 Broadway. The firm, consisting of Adolf, Julius and Hugo Aderer, started in business of refining gold for dentists' use, mechanical dentistry and dental specialties three years ago, and in the first year averaged \$200 per month. This year will show a trade exceeding \$100,000.

Here everything possible is done by the most improved machinery, run by electricity. Melting the refractory metals, such as gold and platinum, was formerly an uncertain operation, accomplished by a blast produced by foot pressure. Here it is done with scientific accuracy by air pressure. So too, with rolling gold—perfect machinery has taken the place of the slow and inaccurate handrolling. Their lathes, machines, dies and other appliances for mechanical dental gold work compare the newest ideas, many of them their own.

A TOUR THAT PAYS.

Not to know Lord & Taylor's is to confess one's provincialism. To enter this most successful dry-goods store at this season of the year, to mingle with the host of holiday present buyers and to crowd good naturedly about the Christmas displays is a real delight and a lesson in the arts as well as in the sciences. The store is a masterpiece, when he sees the delicacy and refinement of the new cloths of gold and silver. The days of Venice are recalled when one regards these filmy creations. Handkerchiefs, all boxed for the tree, are ready for the inspection of handkerchiefs of Duchesse and Brussels lace, and prettier still, those with borders of point applique.

THE PLAY'S THE THING.

To misquote an old saying, "All works and no plays make Jack a dull boy." To forefend all danger of dullness prudent folk should call upon Alice Kausser, No. 1, 132 Broadway, whose business is that of "play-maker." More explicitly she is the American agent of a majority of the successful plays, and she has many to be mentioned. "Alabama," "An American Citizen," "All the Cuckoos of Home," "Bachelor's Romance," "Butterflies," "Captain Letturbair," "Divorcement," "A Gilded Fool," "The Nones," "A Social Highwaysman," "The Charity Ball," "Men and Women" and "The Wife," besides others. These plays are admirably adapted for representation by some of the best amateur dramatic associations, whose progress has of late years been so marked.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

Suggestions by C. C. SHAYNE.

From now until the holidays most men are too busy to "shop" in a vague search for an appropriate gift and many are forced to realize that our hearts are bigger than our purses at this particular time of year, when all regard it as a duty and a pleasure to remember in some substantial way those who are dear to us.

Few there are, however—and very few—who have not the time and means to gratify, to some extent, at least, the sentiment which possesses us and grows as the holidays approach. But the real perplexity of the question presents itself—What shall it be? What article will be the most expressive of the sentiment, and, at the same time, come within the range of our purse strings?

Men naturally suggest themselves to the minds of the thoughtful, and the following list will doubtless help, both in price and character, the wishes of all—

\$10 TO \$15 will buy muffs of beaver, Japan fox, Thetoon, Persian lamb; scarfs of stone marten, mink, mink; ladies' sleighing hood; black hat robe; handsome bag; sealskin cap or pair of gloves.

\$20 TO \$25. Scarfs and hosiery of Persian lamb, mink, sable or lynx; natural otter and Alaska sable (skunk); huffs of Persian lamb, otter, mink, etc.; large-size robes, marts and rugs, sealskin cap or pair of gloves; rich circular capes, light-colored Siberian squirrel, 24 inches deep.

\$35 TO \$50. Muff of chinchilla, Hudson Bay sable, dark mink, blue or brown; the new blue or black lynx muff; blue and scarfs of Hudson Bay sable with tails; the new Florentine collar; Persian lamb storm collar; fur-lined circular; new silver-lined Morocco collar, with long hairs; Alaska sable (skunk) storm collar, with long hairs.

\$75 TO \$100. Mink wrap, longtails and clusters of tails; black lynx wrap, long tabs; natural beaver capes; Thibet bear robes; Hudson Bay sable (skunk) opera cape; handsome embroidered muffs or neck pieces; mink neck pieces; sealskin cape; fur lined and trimmed Newmarket; handsome mink cape; Russian sable box of muffs; opera wrap; set of beautiful chinchilla.

\$125 TO \$150. Persian lamb coat; high-walling collar and revers mink cape; long Alaska sable cape; ermine cape; fur lined overcoat; Russian sable scarf; muffs; rugs of tiger, leopard and polar bear; black bear robes; Hudson Bay sable (skunk) and bon; dark mink; long-tail muffs; sealskin cape; fur lined and trimmed Newmarket; handsome mink cape; Russian sable box of muffs; opera wrap; set of beautiful chinchilla.

\$200 TO \$300. Alaska sealskin jacket; sealskin cape; Russian sable scarf or muff; Alaska sable cape, 30 inches deep; sealskin carriage robe; black bear robe; mink lined otter or Persian lamb trimmed overcoat; Alaska sealskin coat; sealskin coat; revers; Persian lamb coat, collar and revers of chinchilla or mink; Royal ermine opera cape; Hudson Bay sable box, three yards long; mink lined overcoat; ermine collar and revers; extra large cub bear robe.

\$300 TO \$400. Mink lined overcoat, collar and cuffs of un-trimmed otter; otter robe, \$35.00; overcoat of Hudson Bay otter, collar and cuffs of same; Persian lamb lined and trimmed overcoat; Alaska sealskin coat, best quality; Alaska sealskin cape, deep ruffe and collar of mink; 27 inches deep; silk opera cape; handsome embroidered lined with royal ermine, deep ruffe of lace, rolling collar of white fox; Russian sable muff, box or collar; baby lamb coat, or Persian lamb Judo coat, trimmed with sable.

\$500. Hudson Bay otter cape over fox; baby lamb cape, 27 inches, deep ruffe and collar of mink; Russian sable mink and box; Hudson Bay sable Victoria; Hudson Bay sable carriage; Polar bear rug, one of the largest in the United States, pure white.

For \$750 you can buy a beautiful Russian sable muff, a handsome Hudson Bay sable lined and trimmed overcoat; a good set of Russian sable (muff and box).

For \$1,000, extra large muff of Russian sable, a box, three yards long, or a handsome Hudson Bay sable lined and trimmed overcoat. For \$1,500 to \$2,500 will buy sets of Russian sable (muff and cape or long box), Victoria and Talmus—for \$3,000, \$4,500, \$6,500, and the handsome in New York for \$7,500.

Store open until 9 o'clock evenings until Christmas.

Grand Rapids Furniture

Christmas offerings that combine the essential points of use with ornamentation are shown in our building in Handsome Desks, Empire Cabinets, Inlaid Work Tables, Handsome Toilet Tables and a host of appropriate pieces for the holidays. HARRY MAKERS and FRUITERS, 10 E. 60TH ST., NEAR MADISON AVE.

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