

THE JOURNAL. LUCIAN SWIFT, MANAGER. J. S. McLAINE, EDITOR.

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A STRONG COMMISSION

The Journal remarked a few days ago upon the great responsibility imposed by the legislature upon the governor, auditor and attorney general of selecting a commission to revise the tax laws and formulate a system of taxation for this state, and is glad to be able to say to-day that the appointing power has wisely recognized that responsibility.

The commission appointed yesterday, we are very sure, will meet with popular approval and commend the confidence of the people of this state in a very high degree. A selection unable to command that confidence would have been exceedingly unfortunate.

Without particularizing as to the individual members, it is sufficient to say that this commission comprises a high order of legal ability, a desirable amount of experience in public service, and a reputation for integrity and fairness which will cause its work to be accepted by the public with great faith in its wisdom and in its justice to all interests concerned.

DIAZ AND MEXICO

From Mexico come many conflicting reports about the illness of President Diaz, who is said to be insane by some, and dying slowly from the effects of poison administered by his enemies according to other rumors.

There is this to be said about this commission, which might not have been said about another, composed of men, perhaps, otherwise as well qualified, that the members of this commission require no introduction to the people of the state. It is not necessary to say who they are, or why they have been selected—a fact which will cause the results of their work to be accepted with less hesitation, probably, than an equally meritorious performance on the part of men not so generally known throughout the state.

General Hahn is accused by a morning contemporary of suavitier in mode. However that may be, it is understood that the appointing power recognized in him a clear case of fortiter in re.

affairs would succeed to the presidency under the constitution, and he is Senator Mariscal, who formerly was Mexican minister to the United States, and is a man who is likely to maintain the progressive policy of Diaz. Senator Limouzeur, the minister of finance, and a very able man, and a close friend of Diaz, has been looked upon as the probable successor of Diaz by many, and if Diaz wills it, the constitutional provision would hardly prove an obstacle to such succession.

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New York Daily Letter. A RAILROAD SPOOK

BY GEORGE H. MINTURN. Copyright by A. S. Richardson, 1901.

What was known as "the railroad spook" first appeared on the G. O. road, and made its first appearance on Aug. 9, 1881. At 10 o'clock at night, as the Atlantic express was driving along at the rate of forty-five miles an hour, a riderless white horse turned in on the track ahead of the train from a country road. This highway was only half a mile from the river, with the tracks elevated to cross low ground, and as soon as the horse appeared the engine stopped and the train was held up.

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There had been no accident yet on account of the "spook," but the idea spread among train men that this uncanny thing would not quit the road until it had brought about a fatal result. This naturally made everybody a bit nervous, and there were many engineers who felt a sinking of the heart as they were called to go out. The sixth and last appearance of the spook took place on the evening of the 13th. He had a heavy excursion train left C. at 9 o'clock in the evening for Niagara Falls. The engineer was a man named Roberts, and he had been fifteen years in service on the road. He had a perfectly correct opinion of the "spook," but he didn't believe in its existence. In a half-laughing way, before pulling out for C., the conductor had warned him that he could lose his job if he got into a ghost, and Roberts had answered: "No, a second shall be lost. If the white horse shows up in front of me, I'm going to get my head cracked up with him and explode these stories."

It was half an hour after midnight, and the train was speeding past high ways and farmhouses, when the white horse appeared. The engineer always stuck to it that the white horse leaped the fence to reach the tracks. The old man and woman of the buggy were now seated on his back, and as the horse was no more than twenty feet ahead of the pilot and in full glare of the light, engineer and fireman had a good view of him, as they also did of the back of the old man. The woman was seated in front, and, therefore, but little of her was seen. "What are you going to do?" asked the fireman as he turned to the engineer with white face and startled look. "There was a string of telegraph poles for ten miles, Roberts answered the query by letting on more steam. In the run of ten miles, as was afterward shown, he gained three minutes over his schedule, but he did not come an inch nearer the horse, however. He kept his distance over quivers and cattle guards, and was still ahead of him as he entered the village of R. His train was not to stop there, but a freight train was siding to let him pass. Had he been on time, or only two minutes over time, all would have been

THE TRIBUTE OF A FRIEND. In the death of General Harrison the country sustains an almost irreparable loss. Intellectually he was the greatest man of the generation to which he belonged. He was the most vigorous and original thinker of the younger members of the 19th century.

periods in our national history have been particularly powerful patriots. In those in whom this lofty spark was kindled by the second period—the civil war—their patriotism was more intense, and their love of his life than in any other generation.

From the day he resigned a lucrative office, to which he had just been elected, an office which gave him his first opportunity to rise in the chosen profession and to earn something more than a meager living for his little family, to put on the uniform of a volunteer soldier, up to the hour of his death, whether in public service or in his personal or professional relations, he was the guiding influence of every act of his life.

I had the good fortune to form the acquaintance of General Harrison soon after I became a member of the legislature, when he had been selected by the republican state central committee of Indiana to lead the forerunners of that party after its candidate for governor had been compelled to withdraw from the ticket. That fact, as a student, I entered the law office of Major Gordon, his friend and neighbor. From that time on I have enjoyed his acquaintance and friendship in the various ways that it is possible to know him I have had unusual opportunities of forming an estimate of the real character of the man. Ever since he was president of the legislature he has been recognized as an intellectual giant; but it was sometimes said that he was lacking in the qualities of heart. This opinion could only have been formed from a superficial knowledge of the man. It is true that he had some qualities which sometimes give to a man an evanescent popularity. He was never effusive; never gushing. He could not be, for he was always so earnest and so true to his promise until he was certain he would fulfill it. He, therefore, found the close of each day with but few unfulfilled promises. He was a being either his term as president or senator, compelled to appear in a hall or unworthy man to office because he had promised to do so.

He had the lofty contempt of a great soul for the meaner of the metropolis. This was a comforting reflection that the United States are many so that Augustus Thomas still has some forty-odd sovereign states to devote to his geographical school of the dramatic which he has established. So far he has used Alabama, Missouri and Arizona.

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