THE JOURNAL

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THE JACOBSON BILL

The opposition to an increased gross earnings tax has played a clever game at this session of the legislature, and one which has, no doubt, deceived some honest men.

It is an exceedingly plausible argument against that measure to say that the proposition to increase the railroad gross earnings tax should be referred to the tax commission. It seems from some points of view to be the consistent and proper thing to refer all matters relating to taxation to this commission. And this card has been played with success up to this time.

The point of order raised yesterday, however, by Mr. Anderson, and the eminently correct position taken by the speaker of the house, that the bill could not be referred, will no doubt clear up the question in the minds of a good many men and enable them to see where they were making a mistake. The house might send to the tax commission, as has been suggested, a certified copy of Mr. Jacobson's bill and then postpone indefinitely action upon that measure. That would be a highly successful way of killing the whole scheme of increased railroad taxation, if that is what the republican majority wants. It would make it highly improbable that any legislation on this subject would be enacted by this legislature, because all that the commission could do, if the matter was brought to their attention in that way, would be to draw another bill, leaving it to the legislature at the short session, if there is one, to fix the rate and to submit the proposition to the people. But what cannot be done now at a long session would stand a poor show at the short session. For if a new bill were drawn by the tax commission the matter would have proceeded no further than it has to-day. The tax commission cannot levy taxes, fix rates or decide constitutional questions as to taxation, as some people seem to think. It can revise the tax laws and propose to the legislature such a statement of them as may seem to be harmonious and consistent for adoption, amendment or rejection by the legislature. It can levy no new taxes, make no increase in taxation and release no kind of property from taxation.

Now no one questions the skill with which the Jacobson bill is drawn. No fault is found with the construction of the bill. The question is simply and solely upon the rate of taxation, and upon the question of the power of the legislature to increase the rate with respect to certain roads. That the legislature has such power seems to be strongly supported by the recent decision of the supreme court of the United States on the Anderson bill. But whether the legislature has that power or not, it cannot be determined by the tax commission, nor can it be determined by the courts until it has been submitted to the people, adopted and brought before the courts in the form of a test case.

This constitutional question will never be determined until the legislature takes just such action as Mr. Jacobson proposes in his bill. So those who oppose his measure seem to have no object in view whatever except to prevent that question from being determined by the courts, now or at any other time.

Just now the most effective and approved way of protecting the railroads from the possible and probable consequences of a test case is to kick up a cloud of dust about this matter of reference to the tax commisison. There seems to be no controversy as to the soundness of Mr. Jacobson's argument in the direction of an increase. The opposition does not address itself seriously to that point. Mr. Jacobson takes the ascertained value of the property of the railroads of this state, according to their own statements, accepts one-third of the real value as the basis of taxation—a lower valuation, in fact, than is really employed in the taxation of other property—and, taxing at the rate of 25 mills, the average paid by other property in this state, he finds that the sum thus arrived at would be nearly a million dollars more than the railroads would pay in taxation if required to pay 4 per cent upon their gross earnings; so that the 4 per cent rate still leaves the railroad companies paying less taxes upon their property, according to his argument, which has not been successfully refuted, than farmers, merchants, manufacturers and other property owners are required to pay.

This is the reasonable proposition which the republican legislature has before it now for the third time. Various causes have contributed to its defeat at other times, but the weakest of all excuses for failure to impose upon the railroads a near approach to their fair share of taxation is that offered at this time.

The question no longer hinges upon the merits of the proposition. It is simply a dodge, an excuse, a trick, the performance of which, if carried through, must be done now in the open where the people of the state can see exactly who does it, for we guarantee to give to the public all the facts and to see to it that the men responsible for the defeat of this bill shall have full credit for their performance.

The people of Minnesota have a right to have this question of railroad taxation tested. If the railroads are not fairly liable for a larger rate of taxation, the courts will protect them. If they are fairly chargeable with a higher rate of taxation, as we believe they are, the courts will say that. Meanwhile the republican party and the democratic party are bound by their platform pledges to make it possible to bring this matter to trial as an act of justice to all taxpayers, and they will not be able to fool the public by pretense of referring to the tax commission matters that cannot be referred—namely, the rate which the railroads shall pay, which the legislature alone can fix, subject to judicial review; and any possible question of the power of the legislature to increase the rate, which the courts must decide.

The amendment of the board of control bill so as to include the university and the normal schools is made with eyes shut tight to the broad line of separation between the purely educational institutions of the state and those for which the bill was first drawn and apparently for the purpose of defeating the whole proposition.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN DIFFICULTY

Russia and Great Britain are apparently gravitating rapidly toward the point where a collision is possible. The procuring cause of the trouble is comparatively insignificant, Great Britain objecting to the concession of a small tract of land by China to Russia, presumably for Russian railway purposes at Tientsin, the seaport of Peking. The British troops occupy a portion of the land and so far have refused the mandate of Russia to withdraw. More insignificant incidents than this have often precipitated war, but it is a matter of some surprise that Russia has chosen to be so bold in her defiance of the other European powers during the past year of turbulence in China. Russia is, no doubt, proceeding on the supposition that her ancient rival in Asia, Great Britain, is now, by reason of the protracted war in South Africa, too greatly impaired financially and physically to grapple with the colossal empire of the czars.

Aside from this Russian theory of English decrepitude, the czar himself is aware that his empire is, beneath the surface, in a fearfully dynamitic condition by reason of the Nihilists, always plotting against the government, and the students' ominous revolt against the order of the government subjecting them to the military draft. The czar is ready, like other pronounced despots, to seek tranquility at home by providing excitement abroad. Every university in Russia is a hotbet of nihilistic revolution. This revolutionary element, however, has succeeded very meagerly in influencing the Russian peasantry and until the revolutionary party succeeds in aligning the peasantry with them, the struggle against autocracy will make but slow progress, the net results of nihilistic activity being found in the bodies of a few assassinated czars and provincial governors. Russia is far from being a homogeneous nationality. It is more composite in its make-up than Austria-Hungary. The titles of the czar appended to his decrees indicate the heterogeneous nationalities, races and peoples, who submit to the autocracy of the white czar.

The strength of Russia is in her army, the aristocratic element, and the great body of the peasantry, the majority of whom are loyal to the czar. If there is to be an Anglo-Russian war, with Germany playing the part of a neutral, Russia can plug up the Baltic approach to her shores without much difficulty and exclude any British squadron from ingress. There is small possibility that British warships will be allowed to operate against Russia by way of the Hellespont, the Sea of Marmora and the Bosporus, unless the treaty of Paris is to be utterly ignored and spit upon. Thus the real assault upon Russia would be in the far orient, for the Indian frontier would be an obstinate barrier for both parties, especially as Great Britain has kept the Ameer of Afghanistan well paid for many years to keep his country an effective buffer as against Russia.

There is probably not a single power now disposed to check seriously the current manifestations of Russian independence and aggression. She is practically outside the "concert" and will stay outside just to take a little vengeance upon the powers, which in 1878 deliberately robbed her of the territorial and financial benefits embodied in the treaty of San Stefano, which she compelled the sultan to sign when her banners and battleflags waved in sight of the dome of the venerable mosque of St. Sophia in Constantinople.

It seems to take the president a long time to make up his mind about a good man. Why doesn't he appoint Dr. Northrop on the Louisiana Purchase Centennial commission and avoid a chance for a mistake?

A JUDICIOUS MEASURE

The State Bar association has championed the measure now before the legislature which provides for a commission to revise the statutes of the state. Mr. H. F. Stevens, the president of that association, at the lawyers' banquet last Saturday evening, made a strong appeal to the Hennepin county bar to join in actively sustaining the measure. Upon inquiry among the lawyers, The Journal learns that very many of them earnestly favor a revision of the statutes, and they give cogent reasons for it. Our general statutes are not well codified.

The plan of their arrangement is the same which was adopted in 1866, and was substantially that of the territorial statutes; but that plan is now out of date. The leading states of the union, including Wisconsin and others of our neighbors, have adopted improved plans in codifying their general laws. Those of the Dakotas are far in advance of our own. A rearrangement of the same matter now in our general statutes would alone be so great an improvement as to justify a commission for revision. But other defects need to be remedied before they shall become positive evils. There has been no revision since 1866. Amendments have been piled upon amendments, until the result is, in many cases, a medley. Our corporation laws are grotesque, and call loudly for a revision which shall give them a sensible and intelligent form.

Our banking laws require rearrangement. The laws regulating the practice in the courts have had so many amendments that they frequently need construction by the courts in order that practicing lawyers may understand them. The laws regulating the liquor traffic sometimes appear inconsistent in themselves. The penal code, originally a symmetrical compilation, has been tinkered with amendments to its injury. These and other irregularities in the general statutes as a code, are so serious that they can be corrected only by a complete revision.

The time when a commission is at work revising our tax system will prove the most favorable one for another commission to undertake the remaining part of a general revision. The two commissions can easily adjust the work of each to that of the other without clashing, and without either attempting any work outside of its own field. But to put the admirable tax system which the people are now expecting, into our present incongruous code, would be like putting a piece of new cloth into an old garment.

Our esteemed contemporary across the alley, The Tribune, may have filicitated itself upon the defeat of the gross earnings bill too soon. Mr. Jacobson really achieved a victory over the opposition this morning in getting the bill laid on the table from which it can be taken when the proper time comes and put on its passage. The opposition succeeded in referring the subject of the bill to the tax commission, it is true, but that does not wave any of the rights or powers of the house to take up and pass the bill whenever it wishes. It may wish to do that later on. Such a result is not improbable.

HOW TO MAKE A LUMINOUS RECORD

Why can't the republican legislature do a few things that ought to be done and do them in a businesslike way and then quit?

It has created a tax revision commission. That's good.

Now provide for a constitutional convention.

Establish a board of control.

Create a commission to revise the statutes of the state.

Pass the Jacobson gross earnings bill.

Pass the primary election bill.

Make an equitable reapportionment for congressional purposes.

Pass the Torrens land bill.

Make the necessary appropriations.

And then go home.

Such a record would surprise the people of Minnesota into a bigger republican majority in 1902 than was ever given on an off year in this state before.

The railroad lobby must have struck a bargain counter lot if they can buy legislative opposition to the gross earnings at $200 a vote. A fellow who leaked said there were eighteen in the deal at that price. It is safe to say, however, that some of the men suspected were not so cheap as that.

Mr. Carnegie has offered $5,000,000 to Philadelphia for libraries. Where does Minneapolis come in? We have a good library building, of course, but we haven't a good music hall, and Mr. Carnegie sometimes indulges in music halls. Kansas City is asking for a manual training school.

His Ways Are Too Free The Yankee commercial traveler is meeting difficulties in France. His breezy and free manners outrage the tenderest feelings of the Frenchman, who shows only an agonized desire to get rid of the sandbur that has attached itself to him. French business is as courtly and effusively polite as a diplomatic encounter. Customers in Paris enter a shop as if it were a drawing-room. The tradesman and his clerks are saluted with all the ceremony of court procedure. Where this outward and ceremonial politeness is so general, it is easy to see that the American drummer before he has "struck the gait" would be at a masterful disadvantage. His manners have been slightly neglected in the hustle to sell the goods, and his ideas of court procedure and diplomatic usage are at the best what you might call hazy.

As the excessive politeness of a Frenchman in this country seems absurd to us, so the excessive lack of ceremony of the Yankee drummer seems particularly agonizing in France.

The commercial traveler, if he is to succeed abroad, will have to go to a commercial dancing school.

A bill has been introduced in the New York assembly which provides that no person shall practice hypnotism, mesmerism, suggestive therapeutics and allied phenomena after May 1, unless previously registered and legally authorized by the regents. Now who is going to authorize the regents?

The Pioneer Press says that it fears, if they blast out the foundation for the new jail, that it will "shake down the city hall." This would be no more than fair for the city hall has doubtless been "shaking down" the public for some time.

At a fashionable dog party in New York recently, the English bull so far forgot his manners as to eat into a St. Charles spaniel, necessitating sturdy interference and ruining the temper of the lady who owned the St. Charles.

The Wisconsin idea of the Home for Indigent Lawyers is not taking well. A home for indignant clients after the lawyers are through with them would be more to the point.

John Alexander Dowie is building himself a palace at Zion City. He has just bought a $1,400 table and other stuff in proportion. It is clear that Mr. Dowie has been healed.

The piece of slippery ice-slush that makes a man endanger his precious neck by dropping like a sack of flour, is again doing business.

Mr. Eustis has been officially annoyed. Too many people watch his smoke.

They say De Wet is mad. He does act as if he was irritated at something.

That's What's the Matter With Kansas.

Philadelphia Ledger.

Kansas still finds it easier to enact new liquor laws than to enforce those it already has.

His "Golden Rule."

Kansas City Times.

By running for a third term, is Golden Rule Jones doing unto other candidates as he would that they should do unto him?

Boni Would Have to be Good Here.

Pittsburg Times.

If Boni ever goes around in this country on an editor-slapping expedition he is likely to collide with the bottom of an elevator shaft.

New York Daily Letter.

BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL, No. 21 Park Row.

The Customs Inquisition.

March 21.—There may be people in this country who are more unpopular than the customs officials, but passengers on the incoming steamers refuse to admit such to be a fact. Under a new regulation in this port, ostensibly as an additional safeguard against smuggling, passengers on the incoming steamers are being herded in pens and obliged to pass through an inquisition which could not be more severe were they criminals undergoing the thirty-third degree. The new rule went into effect on Saturday of last week, and since that time the ears of the officials must have been constantly tingling, so varied and pronounced has been the language of the passengers concerning the action. Voyagers are no longer permitted to meet their relatives and friends at the piers; a barricaded dead-line is established. On one side of it are detained the persons awaiting friends and relatives on the incoming steamers. On the other side of the barricade, and at a considerable distance, the passengers are detained until the customs inspectors have had opportunity to subject them to a varied assortment of inconveniences and indignities. The ordeal on the arrival of each steamer is such that from three to six hours are consumed before the passengers are free to go on their way with their belongings. Such a rule has never been known at this port before. It is a case where the government is making life miserable for Americans who have the temerity to venture back to their native land.

They Make Money by It.

Surveyor of the Port Croft is responsible for the regulation which is proving so obnoxious. Ever since his rule went into effect Uncle Sam's mail has been piled high daily with protests against the action. In addition to the separation of the returning passengers from their friends, the examination of baggage is made so closely that it is ridiculous. The desire for personal gain has given an edge to the pernicious activity of the inspectors, for under the rules they get 30 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of what they seize. Therefore no trunk or piece of baggage escapes studious and minute inspection, for the customs men are keenly on the lookout for any man or woman bearing more than $100 worth of wearing apparel. No examination is too minute for the inspectors to make, and no question too trifling to propound. Naturally hours of delay are caused to the passengers by this treatment, and this is especially the case where, as often happens, two or three liners make port at about the same time. With only a single steamer, passengers are obliged to wait in line for at least two hours before deliverance from the inquisition, while when a couple of floating cities reach their docks within a short space of time, a line is kept for several hours on the piers. Travelers of long experience declare the present customs system of this country is the most exhausting and irritating through which they have ever passed.

The Automobile Club.

One of the youngest of the many organizations for which New York is noted is the Automobile Club of America. It has recently outgrown its first quarters in the Waldorf-Astoria, and, pending the building of a clubhouse, which is the ultimate aim of its members, has fitted up rooms at 573 Fifth avenue, facing the Plaza and Fifty-eighth street. The new home of the club is very attractive, and from the reception room, finished in warm red, to the Dutch grill room, cozier quarters would be hard to find. The reception room is the largest of the five or six which make up the clubhouse. Off from the reception room is the library, in green, where the club is collecting a large and growing library of all sorts of technical works bearing on the subjects of automobiles and automobiling.

Buffalo Bill Again.

A sure harbinger of springtime is the advent of Buffalo Bill and his fiery, untrained horsemen gathered from Mexican prairies, far western grazing grounds and reservation, snowy Russian steppes and oriental desert. Buffalo Bill comes early this year, reversing his usual custom by preceding instead of following the circus, and already every small boy within city limits is chafing with impatience. April 2 is the opening date when the veteran idol of the plains will spur his spotted charger to the western barrier of the Madison Square Garden, and, doffing his sobrero with broad and sweeping gesture, will declaim in tones like the reverberations of thunder in a Colorado canyon, "And now, ladies and gentlemen, permit me to introduce to you a congress of the rough riders of the world." Buffalo Bill is one of the few vital, virile, living links that bind together the barbaric lawlessness of the past.

—N. N. A.

AMUSEMENTS

The Boston Lyrics in "Wang" at the Metropolitan.

The Boston Lyrics saw the elephant last night in the ever tuneful nondescript "Wang," which contains some of the catchiest music and the funniest business ever mixed in a farce-comedy-comic opera-legitimate comedy-musical extravaganza, for "Wang" has never been classed to the full satisfaction of the authorities on stage nomenclature.

But "your uncle Wangie," and Prince Mataya and Colonel Fricassee, and pepat (and his elephant), and the wise widow Frimousse, and saucy Gillette, were all there, not to mention the unspeakable Cambodians with that awful tune of theirs.

"Wang" is like "Hamlet" in one respect. It contains so much variation in monotony that a company of players can scarcely fail utterly in it. The Boston Lyrics gave a fair performance of the old favorite last evening, despite the fact that the weather had affected the box office.

Harry Brown, as Wang, pleased the audience, although his conception of the role differs somewhat from that of DeWolf Hopper, Kunkel and others who have essayed the part. Mr. Brown was effective, however, especially in his scenes with the French widow.

John Henderson's Pepat is a familiar creation, and one that provokes honest laughter. Mr. Henderson's make-up and "business" were better, much better, than in "The Idol's Eye." Marion Langdon, as the crown prince, furnished an agreeable picture of that cream and white flannel young man with taffy hair, yachting cap, cigarette and airy manners. Miss Langdon was neither so self-conscious as the famous Della Fox, who created the role, nor so unutterably utter as Georgia Caine who followed in the part, nor so much at ease as her immediate predecessor in the role in the Boston Lyrics, but she looked stunning and boyish, and sang her songs in very artistic fashion.

Daisy Howard contributed a bright bit as the saucy Gillette. Charles Huntington was good as Colonel Fricasse and Robert Dunbar made a dashing and sufficiently love-iorn lieutenant.

—W. A. D.

Foyer Chat.

To-night Collamarini will be seen at the Metropolitan as "Carmen," to-morrow night in the title role of "Mignon." Saturday afternoon the comic opera company will repeat "Wang," and on Saturday evening will give "The Fencing Master." The bill for the closing performance of the engagement Sunday night will be "Said Pasha."

Commencing to-night, there will be an almost entire change of the musical and comedy features of the West's Minstrel performance at the Bijou. Vocally no minstrel performance here in years has offered a selection of songs, or singers of singing capabilities as attractive. Richard J. Jose, the wonderful contra-tenor, will render "With All Her Faults I Love Her Still," considered to be one of his most artistic efforts. Manuel Romain, the talented tenor, will sing a new ballad by George K. Harris, "Just for Old Time's Sake." John P. Rodgers, the basso, will render "The Song of the Sword," and "At the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea." Raymond Teal, whose comic vocalizations make much fun, will sing his new song "Dina," and "Babe, I Saw You Riding In a Hack." Ernest Tenny, another popular comedian, will sing his latest song "You're A Liarty."

Sentiment in Little Rock.

New York Press.

The Federation of Woman's Clubs of Arkansas recommended the passion flower as the state's floral emblem. The lawgivers, however, chose the unromantic apple blossom. Who could expect a wall-eyed Little Rock legislator to have any sentiment?

A Dog in the Profession

BY LOVETT DE WOLFE.

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The call of fifteen minutes had been given long ago, and Jimmy must be tied up. The girl-who-was-going-to-be-an-actress looked doubtfully about the small dressing-room, in quest of an immovable piece of furniture. Jimmy had an impetuous disposition which had not yet adapted itself to the limitations of the stage, and the girl felt that therein existed a bond of sympathy between them. She had received her name of the girl-who-was-going-to-be-an-actress from the leading man. It was somewhat surprising, coming from him, for the title was flattering, and sounded clever, and the leading man, being a decided genius, was emphatically the reverse of clever.

The girl finally concluded that the water faucet was the only thing in the room to which she could safely attach the dog's chain, and she picked Jimmy up in her arms to explain the matter to him. She was invariably courteous in her dealings with animals and the prompter, though at times offhand with others.

"I'm afraid you won't like it, Jimmy dear," she said. "You never do like being tied, for some reason or other, and the worst of it is that if you jump and pull, as you generally do, you will turn on the water, and that will worry you, because you won't understand it. In many ways, Jimmy, you are a very human dog, you see." She put him down gently and fastened the chain to his collar, while he licked her hand. "But I shan't be gone long, Jimmy dear. This is a short act, and you can enjoy yourself thinking how glad you'll be when I come back."

The girl fastened the other end of the chain to the faucet, and as she did so, came the call of "Orchestra!" Glancing at herself in the glass, she laughed: "I worship you, Jimmy, but I can't conscientiously say that you're a help when one's making up."

Jimmy stared up at her in rapt adoration, as she gave her chin a saucy touch with the powder puff. This accomplished, she stooped and kissed him on the nose. Then she hurried out of the dressing-room, forgetting, with proper artistic negligence, to pull the door to.

The leading man was surveying the house through an eyehole in the curtain. By-and-by he came over to her. The leading man was Jimmy's owner, and when he remembered it, the responsibility weighed on him.

"Jimmy all right?" he said, in his most imposing Marc Antony style.

She looked up at him. She was ready for the rising of the curtain, and was sitting in the approved ingenue fashion on a footstool in front of an electric light fire.

"Quite safe," she answered, "since he is tied to the water faucet. But he is probably in a state of active rebellion by this time, having been alone fully five minutes."

The leading man nodded like Hamlet at the skull: "Jimmy's a social being." Then the orchestra began the curtain raiser, and he slipped into the wings; his entrance was not until later. The girl began to think of her first lines, for she opened the act. She also opened the next, and was always afraid she would begin the play at the second.

As the girl was standing on the plain deal side of a purling fountain, during the second scene, listening for her cue, the villain came up to her. She knew the cue would be given in a moment, and therefore did not wish to engage in conversation, so she smiled at him vaguely and not encouragingly. But it was no use, because he was not a polished villain, but a villain-of-the-deepest-dye. "I'll tell you a joke," he whispered. "Jimmy's loose!" The girl listened for her cue no more.

"What?"

The villain nodded. "Be funny, won't it, if he follows Penfield on at his next entrance? It's that tragic one of his."

The villain laughed a wicked laugh, twirled his black mustachios, and stalked away—his own entrance being from the other side.

The girl looked around. There was no one near to search for Jimmy or get word to the leading man. The latter was on the stage, happily unconscious of the impending canine anticlimax. Suddenly she realized that her cue was being given. She pulled herself together mentally, and went on.

During the scene her mind worked double. The only person she had to act with was the villain, and she knew it was useless to appeal to him. Her one hope lay in finding Jimmy during a five minutes' exit she had later, when she would reappear in hat and coat. Her scene with the villain never seemed so long, and she made her exit with a more exuberant sense of relief than even on the opening night, when every scene finished was bliss unspeakable.

She came off on the left, and rushed over to the leading man's dressing room, which was on the stage, but on the right side. The door was ajar, and the girl whistled. Then she called. "Jimmy, Jimmy darling," she murmured beguilingly, but there followed no impetuous rush of little paws, so she knew he was not there. She ran back across the stage, searching anxiously for the dog, and then upstairs to her own dressing room. She snatched up the hat and cape which she was to wear, and as she put the hat on, and ran the hat pin through her hair, continued to look for Jimmy. No, he was not there, but the chain was. The girl clinched her teeth angrily. Someone had unfastened him.

She ran down again and stopped at her entrance door, and while she listened to see how far off her cue was, she looked for the basket which she was to carry on. Yes, there was the basket, and her cue was easily three minutes away. The leading man had not yet begun his famous business of walking up the stage in silence, flinging open the center doors, and holding that position for the applause which always followed his picturesque calisthenic effort. After this, he would deliver a sentimental speech preparatory to the girl's entrance.

She ran across behind the stage again. Jimmy might have wandered into the property room, Props being a particular friend of his. The property room, however, held nothing more interesting than Props himself, who was smoking a peaceful pipe, with his feet elevated against the sign "No Smoking Here." Props had a sardonic sense of humor and no respect for the manager of the house who had the sign placed there.

On her way back, the girl stopped for a last despairing little whistle at the leading man's door, and as she did so noticed that all was still on the stage. The leading man must be—Yes, just at that moment the doors were flung open, and she could seen him standing before the opening, his shoulders heaving with agitation of high class, melodramatic emotion. The girl caught her breath in alarm. As the applause came, she started to cross behind the "road drop," which backed the open doors. She would just have time to reach her entrance. But as she turned, she saw that another admirer of the leading man had seen him, and that the grand catastrophe was at hand. For Jimmy was trotting from the other direction straight towards the actor—and the sentimental speech was just beginning!

The girl was back across the stage behind the "road drop" in a flash. The leading man was pathetically declaiming that life was not worth living and that he would seek death in a foreign clime by the very next steamer. Jimmy was already coming down the little passage formed by the drop and the back of the set before the big doors were reached. She knew she could not call, for to do so effectively she would be obliged to pitch her voice above the actor's.

There was but one way, and if she missed the dog—!

She made a step into the passage, and, setting down the basket, threw herself, as quietly as possible, at full length on the ground. She had not missed. She clutched Jimmy as his nose was within four inches of the door.

And the next moment she realized what she had entirely forgotten—that the speech was the last before her entrance, and that her cue was near.

With Jimmy locked in tightest amorous embrace, she picked herself up, and got round to her entrance. Although she did not express her hopes in language, she had a conviction that providence had selected some one to drop from the clouds and take Jimmy, now that she had so gloriously captured him. She slipped her basket on her arm, and looked round wildly, and as she did so, observed that every one was on the stage but herself. Surely, surely some stray scene-shifter would—. And then she heard her cue being given. The girl-who-was-going-to-be-an-actress lifted the lid of her basket, thrust Jimmy in, and walked on.

* * * * *

The leading man saw her liberate Jimmy after the act, and so she had to tell him the story. He was furious with the wrath of elaborate eloquence.

Next night he came to her again when she was sitting on her stool before the electric light fire, and made the solemn announcement:

"I've given Jimmy away."

The girl had loved Jimmy, but perhaps it was for the best. "Poor little Jimmy," she said softly. "I'm afraid a dog is out of place in the profession."

"Perhaps because there are so many of them there already," said the leading man, his eyes shooting lightning in the direction of the villain. And the girl nodded.

The curtain-raiser was beginning. The leading man slipped into the wings, and the girl-who-was-going-to-be-an-actress began to think of her opening lines.

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PAPERS BY EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS OF NATIONAL REPUTATION.

THE ART OF LIVING A HUNDRED YEARS.

V—HEREDITY

By Dr. George F. Shrady of New York.

Heredity in its broad sense is the birthright of assured longevity. It is what the root is to the branch, the sap to the fruit. A sound tree has as many offshoots under ground as above. The difference between the oak and the mullein stalk is in degree rather than kind. Each has a life law of its own, and the conditions are not convertible. The sturdy parent begets strong offspring as surely as the seed grows its kind. Everything depends upon the proper start; therein rests the chance of being on the right side.

The only compensation of conditions is in making the most of what we have. Man at best is the mere exponent of the transient energy of the universe. A longer or shorter period he exercises his functions, and what is called life, vitality, endurance, strength, snuffs out as a candle. He feeds on just so much vitality and then is done. His stock in the trade of life is given at his birth, and his fountain never rises higher than its source.

Thus we have the strong and the weak constitutions with which to strike the balance of chances either for long and healthy lives or for short and sickly ones. The seed produces its kind, and the environment settles the question of soil. The how and the why are questions which are already settled when the account is opened. The debit side is a score of taints and defects, and makes its dreadful and unerring count against otherwise reasonable expectations. The parents leave the debt to succeeding generations, and the taxes are simply collected when they become due.

Transmitted Vital Power.

Oliver Wendell Holmes likens life to a seventy-year clock, the key of which is given to the angel of the resurrection. It is simply a beautiful illustration of nature's law, with a timepiece having a given number of years to run. It is the limit of strain on the mainspring, and the pulse-beat of the pendulum is the unerring indicator of short or long service. In other words, there is just so much fuel for the fire, burn it as we will—the wood in the beginning, the ashes in the end.

The essence of model heredity is transmitted vital power. Every one whose attention has been directed to the subject knows that certain families are long-lived and others are not.

I recollect in my student days my old preceptor used to give an illustration in point by reference to an experience he had with one of his earlier patients. There was a severe railroad accident in a neighboring town and he was hastily summoned to aid the sufferers. While riding thither the messenger was detailing the frightful nature of some of the injuries, but particularly those of the doctor's waiting patient. From all accounts the latter was apparently beyond hope of possible recovery. The doctor had so many doubts on that score that he was wondering whether or not he would find the patient alive. "Certainly," responded his informant. "Why, he is one of the Ewan family—belongs to long-lived stock—couldn't kill him if you tried." And the prediction of the neighbor proved itself right.

These resisting qualities against shock from injury and collapse from sickness are for the most part inherited rather than acquired. It is the protecting power of the individual propagating itself down the line of successive generations. It is the law of life limit, as immutable as the relation of cause and effect. Its proper understanding and its satisfactory explanation implies a knowledge of ancestry. When the parents and grandparents live to a great age "the life expectation," as the insurance companies use the term, is proportionately favorable. The physician always has this element of prognosis in mind when he inquires concerning the age and the disease of the patient's ancestors.

"Who Shall Defend Us from Our Ancestors?"

Breeders of thoroughbred animals have learned the importance of selecting pure-blooded stock on the same principle. Pedigree is everything with them. This conviction is forced upon them by experiments founded on the strictly scientific selection of parents. Unfortunately for the human family, parallel conditions do not exist in most of the up-to-date matrimonial ventures.

With the advance of civilization and the enervating influences which attend the modern strain of living, we seem to be aiming at the survival of the unfittest rather than at the true thing. In the long run, however, nature indicates her rights in favor of the perfect individual and the preservation of the species by crowding the weaklings to the wall. She is always on the side of law, power, right, justice, discipline and soundness. Long life and good health thus compass her best gifts.

This power of living is just as much an inherited right as the size of the body, the shape of the nose, the color of the hair or the form of the skull. It is the expression of consistency, of physical construction with functional adaptability. Thus strong vital organs—sound lungs, healthy hearts, normal kidneys, active livers and painless stomachs—all make the sum total of the most desirable conditions of longevity. When we admit this, it is easy to understand why the transmissable qualities of health or disease are obviously dependent upon the anatomical or organic elements which necessarily govern and direct them.

Transmitted Features and Forces.

The conclusion is also irresistible that as an organ is originally made so must it work. This fact explains why one family may have its weak spot in the brain, another in the liver, stomach, kidney, heart or any other vital organ. In other words, these centers of vitality are incapable by faulty construction of resisting the diseases which are constantly, through climatic and other influences, awaiting opportunities for attack. When nature once delivers her goods there is no compromise. It is once for all, and never on approval.

The strictly structural peculiarities which are born with the individual are those which are in turn transmitted to the offspring. Logically this is as it should be, showing the direct influences of ancestry as against those of merely acquired habits after birth.

When we look into matters of detail in connection with heredity there are many very interesting facts which can be noted as bearing on the general principles already stated. Every one has noted remarkable family resemblances that have been propagated through many generations. The Bourbon nose and Hapsburg lip are matters of history. Various other features have a like tendency toward propagation.

In those families in which old portraits are preserved we often hear it remarked that one descendant has the nose of his great-grandfather, the eye of his mother or the ear of his maternal aunt. The same may be said regarding stature, corpulency, baldness, size of teeth, shape of limb,, supernumerary fingers, moles and other physical peculiarities.

Functional peculiarities are also propagated in similar ways. Some families are noted for truthfulness, others for mendacity, drunkenness and crime. The remarkable history of Margaret Jukes, so often quoted by criminologists, very clearly proves how strong hereditary influences are in propagating their kind. This woman had 709 decendants, the great majority of whom consisted of murderers, thieves, prostitutes and idiots. The original organic defects in the great-grandmother must have been certainly of a very pronounced character.

Nature Jealous of Her Rights.

The more we study this aspect of the question the firmer is the conviction that nature is jealous of her rights in maintaining a given type. In fact, it does not appear at all preposterous to assume that except for the modifying influences of environment, man might have been a perfect animal with a century of life and with a death like the stopping of a clock. With advancing civilization we fall heirs to acquired, rather than original, conditions. Environment is the evolutionary force which always modifies the typical qualities. Although type as such always prevails in the end, its accidental variations are always present. These latter are really acquired habits, due to the casual stimulation of dormant or latent qualities which, save for favoring circumstances of propagation, might practically cease to exist.

From what has been already intimated, the estimation of the influences of heredity depends wholly upon what has gone before. When it is considered that both parents constitute the equation of chances for the offspring, it can be easily seen how much depends upon a proper selection of leading factors at the start. Thus, the strong father oftentimes offsets a weak mother, and contrariwise a strong mother is negatived by a feeble father. There is a constant interchange of leading qualities which are mixed in due proportions by elective and balancing amenities. Sometimes these attributes adapt themselves in such balancing ways that the results make a happy culmination of desirable products, either in the direction of increased physical power, extra mental force or improved personal character. Darwin proved this to be possible by his exhaustive researches in evolution and Galton in his admirable work on "Hereditary Genius" still further confirms the theory.

Nature, when she has full sway, is always on the side of perfection. The model man or model woman she seeks to preserve; it is the endurance of the species at the expense of th individual, and the perpetuation. Hence the "survival of the fittest" is the doctrine which she preaches to all creation. The influences of faulty environment are the only ones which tend to thwart her purposes. Therein oftentimes are many antagonisms to her fundamental laws.

Natural Selection in Marriage.

Take, for instance, the law of natural selection in marriage, which is of such interest in connection with the particular subject under discussion. Civilization, as at present cultivated, tends strongly through loose marriage customs to undermine the very foundations of many of our hopes for strong men and women in future generations. The law of natural selection on the proper basis of healthful, prosperous and happy matrimonial alliances is so often violated by custom, convenience, wealth and social position, that the question seldom occurs as to the physical or mental qualities of the parties to the awful contract. The breeder of dog, horse or cow is more careful on the question of healthful and suitable pedigree than the ever-watchful parents who wish to mate their son or daughter. Wrong judgment in this particular is sure to tell on hereditary influences and in its turn to militate against longevity in the offspring. Especially is this the case when by unsuitable matches disease tendencies are multiplied and their propagation through successive generations is proportionately guaranteed. The intermarriage among even distant members of the same family has always been fraught with disaster by accentuating undesirable traits. This has been shown over and over again by the marriage of cousins, especially in isolated country districts, in which the infusion of new blood seldom occurs. The unusual number of imbeciles and "queer" people in such localities is a matter of common observation. Such conditions always explain in certain strains of given families a marked predisposition to special diseases and a corresponding lowering of hereditary strength. It must be admitted that the influences of environment must be good or bad in so far as they attempt to control unfavorable heredity on the one hand, or allow evil tendencies to work their worst on the other.

While it must be admitted that acquired tendencies are not strictly hereditary, it must be likewise assumed on general principles that the vast majority of transmitted traits are due to distinct and inherent qualities in the parents. Environment thus has its influences in fostering or repressing such germinative elements as are born in the individual.

Characteristics of Longevity.

After glancing at heredity in a general way and appreciating the force of some of its leading laws we come more naturally to the summing up of results as applied to such fortunate individuals as are born strong, have an