

THE JOURNAL

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A Meritorious Bill: The house has passed a bill introduced by Mr. Jackson of Ramsey county, making it a felony, under certain defined circumstances, for a husband and father to fail to provide proper food, clothing, shelter and medical attendance for his wife or children. The bill is now with the senate, but notwithstanding its meritorious character the danger is that in the pressure of business here at the close of the session it may be overlooked and fail of passage.

That would be a deplorable result. All those who have to deal with destitute families constantly come in contact with most distressing cases where the suffering of women and children and often the breaking up of families has been occasioned by the miserable failure of the husband and father to provide for them when he is able but unwilling, and we have no law upon our statutes that is adequate to compel him to do so.

The Venezuelan Trouble: Our government has done the proper thing in recalling Minister Loomis from Venezuela. It is right, also, in arranging for the protection of American citizens from violence in the South American republic. All talk of war with Venezuela is absurd. We would present a pretty spectacle intervening in behalf of some Americans who claim to have concessions from the Venezuelan government to mine asphaltum in some asphaltum lakes in the republic. It is a quarrel between concessionaires, which should be settled by the courts of Venezuela. Forcible interference on our part would not help the matter. The concessionaires would be further than ever from asphalt mining facilities.

The Venezuelan government is a very unstable affair. President Castro has succeeded in coming out on top after a fierce struggle with two or three ambitious swashbucklers. Under such tumultuous conditions it has been a rather bad time to get a Spanish-American government to calmly consider an American claim. Our consul has been badly treated and American citizens with asphalt concessions are aggrieved and there is reason to believe that there is a screw loose in their claims.

No doubt Venezuela is ungrateful for all we have done in her behalf to have her boundary line rectified as against the exaggerated claims of Great Britain. It is the habit of Spanish-American republics to be ungrateful, and latterly, indeed, they have been siring something which looks very much like hatred of us. But we are too big to quarrel with them. By withdrawing Minister Loomis from Venezuela the government of Castro, if it lasts long enough, will cool down and request resumption of diplomatic intercourse and the asphaltum trouble will be settled. The United States cannot undertake to keep order in Venezuela or in any other Spanish-American republic. It can and will protect American citizens and their property there, when they are acting within the laws of Venezuela.

It would seem as if the vote on the bill to increase the salary of the fire warden from \$1,200 to \$1,500 ought to be reconsidered. It failed of passage by one vote, and it appears that Mr. Bush, who was standing at the door of the cloak room when the vote was taken on the bill, voted for it, but his reply failed to be heard by the clerk and his vote was not recorded; and so the entry shows the bill as not having been passed, when as a matter of fact it did receive a sufficient number of votes to make it a law. The fact is a decent salary never has been paid to the fire warden, and this action of the legislature, if it should have the effect of decreasing the enthusiasm of the warden and the efficiency of the department, would produce a result as deplorable as it would be natural. General Andrews has rendered important services to the state, and has done a great deal to minimize the destruction of timber and other property by forest fires. The importance of such fire protection, from the money standpoint, entitles the officer charged with this duty to more consideration by the legislature than he has received. As a matter of fact, protection against forest fires should enlist the interest of the legislature as much, if not more than protection of game, and yet the appropriations for game protection are very much more liberal than those for the

It is necessary to have a fair proportion of fresh new books in the libraries already organized and the expense of repairing is large, for book bindings in these times are unsubstantial things, even on the best class of books. The most popular books after six months service need re-stitching and other repairs that cost money, but then they are more able to withstand hard service than new books. The appropriation of \$5,000 annually can do little more than maintain the efficiency of the work in its present scope, and the \$10,000 a year asked by the commission and its friends would not provide for an extravagant increase. The reduction to \$3,500 a year, proposed by the house appropriation committee, will merely keep the work alive until a more appreciative legislature shall realize the value of the work performed by this small expenditure of public money.

It has probably not escaped public notice that the solicitude for the city's interest which is said to actuate the opposition to the requests of the Wisconsin Central in connection with its terminals is displayed in a quarter from which we have not been accustomed to look for manifestations of that kind.

A WHOLESOME SCARE

The manufacturers and operators of nickel-in-the-slot gambling machines have assumed that under the Ames regime that kind of business could be carried on without much regard for the law, and the town has been overrun with them. Saloons and, in many cases, cigar stores and drug stores, have been supplied with these devices—in some instances against the wish of the proprietors—and not only men with plenty of money in their pockets to spend, and whose folly would be visited solely upon their own heads, but men of small resources and boys have flocked around these devices, making them exceedingly profitable to somebody.

No attention has been paid to the matter by the police, although the newspapers have reported the facts frequently. But Saturday it was developed that even the proprietors of these machines, and of the places which permit them to operate, entertain a degree of respect for law which shows that the freedom with which this business has been prosecuted has depended upon the officers of the law entirely. Under direction of the sheriff, deputies visited a large number of places Friday and Saturday, taking the names of the proprietors where those machines were found. This information, presumably, was for the benefit of the grand jury, and the activity of the sheriff's deputies resulted in a rapid cleaning out of these slot machines, not because anybody had taken any action against them, but merely through the fear of what the grand jury might do.

These gambling devices are probably more demoralizing and harmful than the regular gambling rooms, because they are at all times accessible to boys, and give them their first lessons in the vice which ruins many young men, causes them to lose their positions, makes them unfit for places of trust, and inflicts incalculable damage in very many ways.

Never mind about the ice man, but how would you like to be the czar?

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THE STRAIGHT EDGE ASSOCIATION

The Straight Edge Association, a strange little company of people who are very impractical in a business sense. They are trying to live up to the motto of "The Straight Edge Association." It seems to be a sort of co-operative company. The constitution and by-laws are as follows: All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.

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In the latter part of the seventies Mr. Chisholm became interested in an invention of a Portland man, it being a wooden lamp with a tin foot. After experimenting for a time with the manufacture of this lamp from wood which was turned with a lathe, he conceived the idea of fashioning the lamp from chemically prepared wood pulp. In working out this plan the durability of pulped fibers and vessels was discovered. As the experimental factory in Portland some sample pulps, tubes and other vessels were fashioned from wood fiber, and the enterprise gave promise of great success. Then he established a factory for making indurated fiber ware in the town of Fairfield, but just as the business was emerging from the experimental stage the Fairfield factory was burned and Mr. Chisholm had to seek a new location.

HE BECAME A PUBLISHER

Hugh Chisholm early in his career selected Portland as his place of residence and there established the headquarters of his business. In 1876 he sold out his Canadian interests and purchased the interests of his brothers in the New England states. Then in connection with his new agency he established a publishing business, turning out in a few weeks his own agents picture albums, pamphlets, tourists' guides and souvenir publications descriptive of scenery along the principal lines of the transportation system.

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