THE JOURNAL

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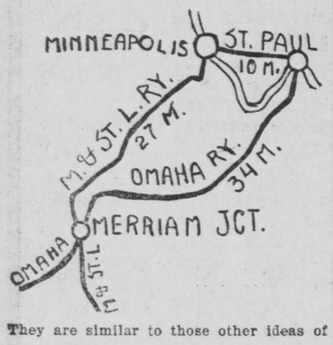
"THE WHIMS OF ONE CITY"

Judge Wilson, the attorney of the Omaha road, says that the demand that the Omaha's Sioux City division trains be run into Minneapolis first is absurd. "It would simply be running the trains out of their way to satisfy the whims of one city."

The judge seems to have unique ideas as to what "out of their way" means.



They are similar to those other ideas of his regarding the relation of the Omaha to the North-Western system. The suave lawyer should get out that geometry he studied when a boy and learn that a straight line is the shortest path between two points and that two sides of a triangle are longer than one. The judge might with profit go into the attic, take down the mental arithmetic of his childhood and do a few sums. After he has posted up a bit he may try to "prove" the following easy examples:

Merriam Junction to Minneapolis, Twenty-seven Miles.

Merriam Junction to St. Paul, Thirty-four Miles.

St. Paul to Minneapolis, Ten Ten Miles.

Merriam Junction to Minneapolis, via St. Paul, Forty-four Miles.

Merriam Junction to Minneapolis, via Omaha's Leased Line, Twenty-seven Miles.

Minneapolis to St. Paul, Ten Miles.

Merriam Junction to St. Paul, via Minneapolis, Thirty-seven Miles.

If the judge should prove a really bright student he will easily follow these deductions from the above:

What the judge describes as "out of their way"—that is, to run trains to Minneapolis first and then to St. Paul—is seven miles shorter than his "direct" way—from Merriam Junction to Minneapolis via St. Paul.

It is seventeen miles farther from Merriam Junction to Minneapolis by way of St. Paul than from Merriam Junction directly to Minneapolis.

It is only three miles farther from Merriam Junction to St. Paul via Minneapolis than from the junction to St. Paul directly.

When it is remembered that the Omaha has a long lease of this Merriam Junction line to Minneapolis, and that it actually hauls freight over it now, it becomes impossible for any one not afflicted with that obscurity of vision which so troubles the Omaha officials, to declare that Minneapolis' demand for what the geography of the situation entitles it to is not just.

They have not, and say they will not, do anything to make it possible for their Sioux City division west of Merriam Junction of Minneapolis, which is seven miles nearer to them than to St. Paul, without traveling seventeen miles farther than by the direct railroad connection controlled by the Omoha.

This unreasonable attitude is an outrage both on Minneapolis and travelers whose destination is Minneapolis. Those seventeen miles mean two hours wasted in every round trip by those who have to come to Minneapolis anyway, and it compels many others to refrain from visiting Minneapolis, which, we repeat, is seven miles nearer to all points on the Omaha's Sioux City division west of Meriram Junction than is St. Paul.

Whatever may be said of other requests made by Minneapolis, the one for direct train service cannot be disputed by any fair-minded person (this excludes the Omaha officials). A city that is so deliberately injured, even insulted, by a railroad which pays dividends through its patronage, is justified in taking the most extreme measures to force concessions or to punish an avowed enemy. The Omaha may yet learn that the "whims" of even "one city" are deserving of respectful consideration.

The Owatonna Chronicle complains that the board of control system will injure the business of the local stores, in that they are not likely to be able to get contracts in competition with the large wholesale houses of the twin cities. This complaint touches one of the shortcomings of the old system. Each particular institution board was more or less dominated by the resident member who often made it his business to get as many orders as possible for local merchants, regarding himself as a sort of means by which public moneys could reach the pockets of his fellow townsmen and often of himself. The board of control will buy, as it should buy, whereever in the state it can get goods the cheapest. So long as reasonable prices are charged the orders ought not to go outside of the state from which the taxes come to support the institutions. But no state institution should be regarded as a local snap—and that includes the state university.

THE SPRING WHEAT CROP

The Journal publishes exclusively in Minnesota to-day the estimate of the wheat crop of Minnesota and the Dakotas made by Mr. H. V. Jones, editor of the Commercial West, and for more than ten years commercial editor of The Journal.

This is the tenth estimate of the wheat crop of these three states made by Mr. Jones from personal inspection, and it is no exaggeration of the truth to say that no man's opinion of the size and quality of the crop is worth more in the grain exchanges of this country to-day than Mr. Jones'.

He places the crop for the three states at 183,000,000 bushels, and in doing so makes it 15,000,000 to 35,000,000 less than other men of prominence in the grain trade who have ventured an expression of opinion as to the size of the crop. We haven't any doubt, however, that Mr. Jones' estimate will be received by the trade as expressing as near as human judgment can at this time the probable wheat crop of these three states.

In this connection a little history is in order.

Last year Mr. Jones estimated the crop of the same states at 136,000,000. The government estimate was 90,000,000, and none of the experts went much above 100,000,000.

For daring to express this widely differing opinion Mr. Jones was ridiculed, vilified, abused and denounced by all kinds of people—by those who might be expected to know something of the situation, and by those who had no means of knowing anything about it at all; but particularly by those who were bulls in the wheat market, because, when his estimate was made public, the trade generally having come to regard his opinion as worth having, the market showed the immediate effect. Mr. Jones was accused of venality and The Journal was declared by some of its contemporaries, and by scores of men throughout the northwest who were speculating in wheat on the bull side, to have deliberately undertaken to depress the market to the great loss of northwestern wheat producers. It was gratifying, however, to find fair-minded people and the most experienced men in the grain trade generally accepting The Journal's estimate as made at least in good faith and probably more nearly correct than those emanating from any other source. The great grain trade papers of the country, while not always adopting The Journal's estimate, were generally inclined to believe that it was not far from the correct figure.

Mr. Jones stood by his estimate in spite of all criticism, friendly and unfriendly, and The Journal offered no apologies. Its aim was to give as nearly a correct a statement of the facts as possible, uninfluenced by any consideration except that of a desire to print the truth. On any other basis no estimate is ever worth anything, and no estimate made without a personal inspection of the fields themselves has ever proved to be of any material value.

The crop year of 1900 and 1901 ended on the first of August. We now have the actual receipts together with the ordinary distribution with which to compare estimates made at the beginning of the year. The detailed statement of the facts is given in another column. It appears that during that time the receipts at Minneapolis and Duluth amounted to 100,000,000 of bushels. Allow the usual amount for consumption by the country mills, and for seed and other home consumption of 50,000,000; the amount destroyed by rain after the estimates were made, 7,000,000, and 10,000,000 as carried over August 1st in the hands of producers, and we have a total of 167,000,000. Deduct old wheat carried over from the crop of 1899, 15,000,000, and deduct wheat received from Kansas City, 12,000,000—the latter amount being determined by the records, and the former doubtless a liberal estimate—and we have 27,000,000 to be taken from the total distribution, leaving a net crop for 1900 of 140,000,000 bushels, which is 4,000,000 more than Mr. Jones' estimate made a year ago, which was ridiculed and denounced as very much too high.

For a matter upon which so much dependence must be placed in human experience and human judgment, and about which nothing can certainly be known, this, indeed, is a remarkable vindication and one which in all decency calls for apologies from those who were so free with their denunciations and ridicule a year ago. And while such apologies are not expected, there can be no doubt that the result will have the effect of further strengthening the confidence of the grain trade generally in the figures furnished by Mr. Jones as a result of his long, extended and painstaking investigation of the condition and proportions of the present year's crops.

The British empire is still to be an empire without an emperor and must struggle along with an ordinary king. But that king is to be given an imperial title. In addition to his other designations a bill now in parliament makes him "king of British dominions beyond the seas." The title has an impressive sound, and when added to "Emperor of India," "Defender of the Faith," and a few like felicitous and sonorous phrases, ought to satisfy the most jingoistic Greater Britain enthusiast.

MAKE HASTE

The water board decided yesterday to ask the city engineer to make soundings at the Camden station and report upon the practicability of installing one of the pumps from the other stations at Camden station so as to increase the capacity at that point sufficiently to supply the summer demand without drawing upon the other stations. This action was taken at the conclusion of a meeting of business men with the water board, at which the board were very urgently requested to lose no time in providing an escape from the present deplorable necessity of relying in part upon the lower stations for water.

While there is some doubt in the minds of a portion of the committee as to the character of the foundation and whether it would admit of the location of another pump at that point without damage to those already there, it is believed these doubts will be removed and that it will be shown, as is claimed by engineering authorities, including the best judgment available upon the subject, that there is no reason why another pump may not be located at Camden station and successfully operated without detriment to the pumps already there. This having been done, the board and the council will be expected to lose no time—not an hour—in making the change. The matter is of the utmost importance. Nothing before this city council now, and nothing likely to come before that body, is of equal importance. We hope the council will justify the public expectation and make all possible haste in this business.

The Austrian manufacturers have just received their final blow, the coup-de-grace, from American competitors. For lo, these many years, in the sunny Levant, in India and far Japan, the Austrian tack has dominated the market for that small but exceedingly useful article. American manufacturers, says Charles Bailey Hurst, American consul at Vienna, now offer them at a price that almost excludes further business in that line for Austria. The "American peril" advances upon poor Austria! To the rescue, Goluchowski, ere your people perish!

A GOOD BUSINESS YEAR

The northwest will not only have a good crop of wheat, but it is well distributed. Every locality has some wheat. Some sections do much better than others, but there have been no failures over any considerable area. This, of course, is much more favorable for general business than if the crop had been large in some sections and a failure in others, as was the case last year.

This indicates a good business year. All sections will have something to sell and trade will be more evenly distributed on that account.

Some day a strong and able man will come along and win fame by undertaking the redemption of Montana. Sooner or later there must rise in that state a public sentiment which, loathing the corruption of the legislature, the depravity of politics, the dishonor of judges and the oligarchy of money, will sustain the man who will lead a campaign of reformation. The good people of Montana cannot longer afford the reputation the state now has.

SPANISH-AMERICAN DISCORD

A Washington dispatch attributes the disturbances in Venezuela and Colombia to the development of a plot engineered by President Castro, of Venezuela, and Gen. Uribe-Uribe, of Colombia, to unite the republics of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecquador in one federated republic. To resist this scheme several revolutions are in progress.

The half dozen attempts to unite the Central American republics Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica have so miserably failed that it would seem the height of folly for other states to attempt the construction of a union. Our government has been compelled to send two warships to protect the terminals of the Panama railway from the excesses of the Colombian revolutionists, who seem to be well-provided with munitions of war. The outlook is for revolutionary disturbances for several months. There are symptoms of revolution in Brazil also, and there is always a prospect for a revolution there, so long as the partizans of Countess D'Eu, the daughter of the late Emperor Dom Pedro, entertain a hope of restoring the House of Braganza to the throne from which it was expelled several years ago, and placing upon it the Countess's son Pedro, who is now 26 years old.

The signs of the times do not look very favorable for the Pan-American Congress which is to assemble in the City of Mexico in October. The dream of a protective compact of the new world republics is a very alluring one. It was a favorite subject of contemplation by the late James G. Blaine. It was a cherished hope of Henry Clay and President Monroe. The Spanish-American republics favored such a league for mutual protection and advancement shortly after they secured their independence of old Spain and the Panama congress of 1825 was called to effect that purpose. The President was authorized by congress to appoint delegates to that congress, but it suddenly occurred to the congressmen from the slave states of the south that all the Spanish-American republics had prohibited slavery in their constitutions and that the United States would be the only champion of slavery at the congress and that views irritating to the promoters of our "peculiar institution" might be expressed, so the pro-slavery element at Washington deliberately delayed action on the subject until it was too late for delegates to reach Panama before the congress of American republics adjourned. It was a most favorable time for the United States to promote a league of the American republics, but the opportunity was lost.

The coming Pan-American Congress is intended to promote the spirit of harmony and uninterrupted constitutional government besides bringing the republics in closer commercial intercourse.

The Cure of Naughtiness Florence Hull Winterborn tells the Woman's Home Companion how to cure naughtiness in children. Her idea is that the child is not esentially vicious, but that he wants to occupy the center of the stage, to be the center of commotion. Again, as the ordinary young one has no particular resource in himself, he is attacked frequently by ennui, and for the sake of having something stirring he is even willing to make himself odious—to put it mildly. Miss Winterburn thinks that if the offspring's attempts at intractability are made dull affairs to him—if people show little interest in his bad and considerable interest in his good—he will soon drop the former for the latter. When Aunt Flo, who weighs 198, comes to visit us and Charlie pulls the rocking chair away just as she is about to seat herself and Aunt Flo drops like a bag of meal out of the barn window, jarring the house like a South American revolution, it is much the better way to feign not to see or hear the disaster. If it is made interesting for Charlie, with father in the woodshed acting the star part and Charlie playing no minor role in the engagement, according to Miss Winterborn (Florence Hull), he will want to do it over, so as to be the whole thing again (next to father).

Such is not our experience.

Admiral Robley D. Evans, in his book, "A Sailor's Log," referred to Secretary Chandler as an "insect," and Mr. Chandler demands a court of inquiry. Mr. Chandler certainly ought to be given a chance to disprove this charge, if it is possible.

Our garden had eighteen hills of sweet corn this year that turned out so well that we are now prepared to buy a gold brick if those California robbers have anything to offer cheap.

M. Santos-Dumont actually turned around in the air. They sometimes do this at picnics even without an airship, when the Sunday school superintendent steps on the hornet's nest.

In July, 1900, Europe took 14,000,000 bushels of American wheat; in July, 1901, she bought 26,000,000 bushels. The farmers' placer claims are panning out well this year.

Have you tried the Bob and Cole Younger 5-cent cigar?

The Chinese are annoying foreigners in Peking. Fining the nation $312,000,000 ought to have made them love foreigners.

The Critic this month has a picture of Tolstoi playing tennis. It seems as anomalous as St. Paul playing golf.

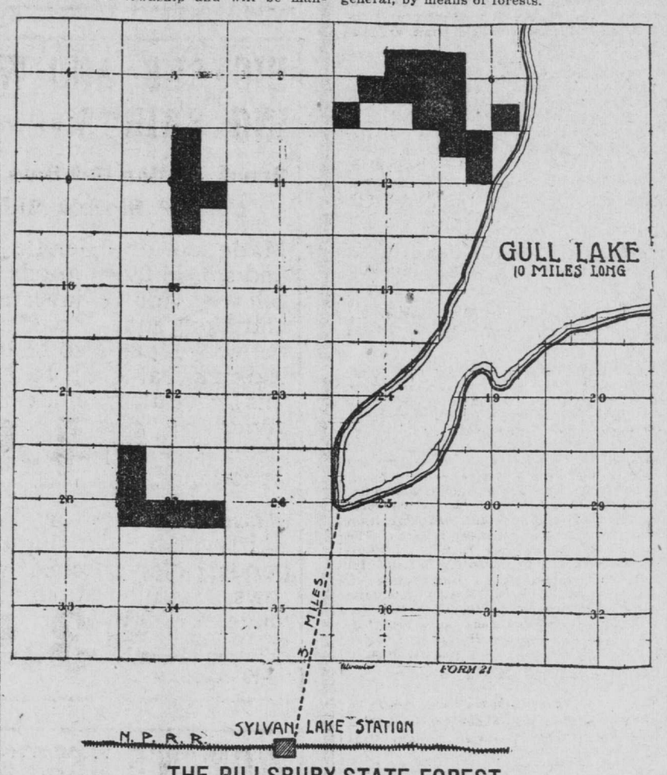
The First State Forest Lands

The Minnesota forestry board, which has now been in existence two years, has at last something to manage. Heretofore it has been a forestry board without forests, but now it has 1,000 acres of land, which constitute the beginning of a public forest system that will, it is hoped, grow to considerable proportions in the future. Last winter former Governor John S. Pillsbury announced his intention to give the board a thousand acres, but it was not until a recent meeting that the board was furnished with a full description of the lands. They are located in Cass county, on or near Gull lake, a fine body of water about twelve miles long. The southern extremity of the donated lands is three miles from Sylvan Lake station, a point on the Northern Pacific railroad, about fifteen miles west of Brainerd. The lands, which will be known as Pillsbury state forest, are composed of agriculturally useless cut-over "forties" in town 134 and ranges 29 and 30. As shown by the accompanying map, they are in three different localities, but there are 640 acres together in the largest group.

Under the forestry law of 1899 two-thirds of the products of the forest lands go to an educational institution or system which, in this case, Governor Pillsbury has designated as the university of Minnesota, and the other third to the state, county and town.

It is not the policy of the forestry board to secure large tracts of land in any one place, but rather to get small holdings, scattered over the state in as many townships as possible, of the very rocky, very rough or very sandy and poor land not fit for farming purposes. This land will be of benefit to the farmers of the township and will be managed by the town supervisors elected by themselves, who by law are the town forestry board. These little state forests will be like the communal forests of Europe, which often pay all town taxse and furnish firewood to the people. The stateis to divide the proceeds of sales of firewood, timber, poles, posts, etc., with the town and county where the forests are located. The people of each locality therefore have a close interest in the care and preservation of the timber. This is a local interest outside of the larger interest of the state in the important effects of the forests on climate, preservation of water courses, warding off the bad effect of dry and scorching winds and hot weather. The county commissioners, as the country forestry board, have a general charge of the state forests in their county and must decide in the first instance whether proposed forest lands are or are not fit for cultivation or are better suited to raise timber for the use of the nearby farmers than for general farming purposes.

While the first forestry law provided only for the donation of lands worthless for agricultural purposes or those absolutely needed for the protection of water courses, another law passed by the last legislature turns over to the board certain non-agricultural lands which have come into the possession of the state through the tax forfeit sales after many years of abandonment. Both laws are so hedged about and limited that there is no possibility that the state forests may ever be enlarged at the expense of the state's agricultural area, the dominating idea of the state forestry system, being the utilization of waste lands for the public good, local and general, by means of forests.



THE PILLSBURY STATE FOREST

The first lands given to the state forestry board. They are located in town 134, and ranges 29 and 30, Cass county. The blacked forties make up the thousand acres given by former Governor John S. Pillsbury.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

Clyde Fitch's enormously successful play, "Lover's Lane," having long exceeded its original summer booking in Chicago closed its twelfth week there last Sunday and the company will rest until the opening of their regular season in this city on Sunday, Aug. 18. Wm. A. Brady's players have been acting this piece continuously since Feb. 6, and by the time they finish next spring will have been out nearly seventy weeks with but a fortnight's rest. Some of them will then be compelled to leave at once for the presentation of "Lover's Lane" in Australia.

"Sapho" is breaking all previous records for summer stock company business at the Metropolitan this week. A packed house greeted the third performance last night and hundreds of people were turned away at the matinee to-day who were unable to secure seats. The play will run the remainder of the week, with matinee again on Saturday.

The forthcoming production of "The Two Orphans" at the Metropolitan will probably be the most elaborate that Minneapolis will ever see. It is said that Kate Claxton, whose name is synonymous with the popularity and fame of this time-honored drama, will shortly revive the play and make a tour of the country, but it would be impracticable, if not impossible, for her to carry from city to city the extensive amount of scenery and the numberless elaborate accessories which will adorn the production at the Metropolitan. A company of carefully selected artists has been engaged for its presentation, and everything possible is being done to give the theater-goers of Minneapolis the greatest dramatic treat of the summer season.

SURPRISED ROOSEVELT

New York Tribune.

Vice-President Roosevelt was relating the other day one of the incidents of his life when governor of the state of New York. "I had received a large package by express," he said, "and it was addressed 'His Excellency the Governor, Albany, N. Y.' I thought the sender af the package was somewhat formal to address me that way on the outside of a package, but my surprise was increased when I opened the bundle. I found a pair of battle axes, a complete set of daggers, and a half score of old-fashioned blunderbuses. After examining the weapons I had almost concluded that some friend thought another war was in sight when a messenger appeared with an order to take the package away. On asking him the reason, the mesesnger said that they were the atrical paraphernalia and belonged to 'His Excellency the Governor' company."

Grave Republican Responsibility.

Philadelphia Press.

The republican party cannot count on odds in its favor in 1904. Its record must be as good on the issues of the day as on those of the past. The demand for the adequate taxation and regulation of trusts must be fully met. No suspicion must exist of corporate control within the party. Exactly as the republican party has solved the bank problem, the currency problem and the railroad problem, so that in all this federal control commands public confidence, so it must meet the problem presented by the trusts.

Southern Suffrage Legislation.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Perhaps it is wise for the several southern states to vary their suffrage laws so greatly, for then a decision of the courts in one case will not affect the others, the conditions being so different. At the same time we believe it would save worry and vexation if some general plan of suffrage could be agreed on in the southern states where, because of the large number of illiterate negroes, it is desired to cut down their vote as much as possible.

Porto Rican Prosperity.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

For the last twelve months everything in Porto Rico has altered for the better, and the people, with fresh courage and high hope in their hearts, are looking forward with steadfast assurance to the achievements of a far brighter destiny than could have been theirs under the iron heel of the Castilian.

Not Even With Spectacles.

Washington Star.

Mr. Towne sees no silver lining in the clouds.

THE ROBERT TREAT PAINES

New York Sun.

The New York directory exhibits on page 1033 the subjoined entry:

"Paine, Robt. T., ins 45 Cedar."

This is an abbreviated form of the name of Robert Treat Paine, a gentleman who has recently been receiving at his business address in this town letters, inclosing checks, which he surmised were intended for another Robert Treat Paine living in Boston. The New York Robert Treat Paine thereupon forwarded to the Boston Robert Treat Paine the mail matter with valuable inclosures which belonged to the latter; at the same time courteously requesting the Boston Robert Treat Paine to notify his correspondents of the mistake they had been making in addressing their remittances.

The acknowledgments of the alleged Robert Treat Paine of Boston for the trouble and kindness of the New York Robert Treat Paine were contained in a letter which was printed in the New York Herald of yesterday. This communication deserves a place in the history of Massachusetts:

Your letter, with its inclosure, has been received by me. I hope you will allow me to express my sincere regret that you should bear the name that by right of lineal descent belongs to me and my family here in Boston. There is no other direct male descendant of Robert Treat Paine, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was the first to bear that name. If the name was given to you out of honor to the singer, I think such a practice should not receive the sanction of thoughtful persons.

The recipient of this solemn rebuke did not go penitently to court with an application for a change of name, but sat down and wrote an irreverent rejoinder.

Your remarkable letter has been received by me and for the reason that it is impossible to stop the bray of the donkey without killing the ass I will allow you to express your sincere regret. The family to which I have the honor to belong existed for many years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and our statement that the signer was the first to bear the name suggests thoughts as to his antecedents. I have never been sufficiently interested to look up my genealogical tree, and certainly I shall never attempt it now, lest I may find that one of its withered branches reached out to you.

A PRIM YOUNG MAN

A young housewife recently complained to a friend that, being compelled to live in an old house, she was much annoyed with cockroaches. She said: "I have used all sorts of patent insect-killing things, and have tried borax, but I am quite discouraged." The friend remarked: "You wouldn't be willing to try a charm, I suppose?" "I don't believe in them, of course," replied she, "but I've reached the point where I am willing to try anything." "Well, then," said the friend, "catch one roach and put it, together with a penny, into a small pasteboard box. Tie it up neatly and throw it upon the pavement. Whoever picks it up will get all your roaches." The young housewife smiled, but for the joke of the thing tried the experiment. She inclosed a roach and a penny in a box, according to instructions, wrapped and tied it attractively with pink paper and string, and contrived to drop it on the pavement. A prim young man came along, glanced covertly around, picked up the box and strode off. That was three weeks ago, and the young housewife hasn't set eyes on a roach since. In the midst of her rejoicing she compassionates the household of the prim young man, where, presumably, the pests have betaken themselves.

IN THE HIGHWAY

Two men gazed at the self-same star
That gleamed out through the night;
One saw a wondrous world afar,
One saw a point of light.

The wind blew through the swaying trees
And stirred the grasses there;
And one heard wondrous melodies,
One but the swish of air.

And one of them was rich and proud,
Whom people served for bread,
And one pale-featured, whom the crowd
Will honor—when he's dead.

—S. E. Kiser.

An Art They Can't Acquire.

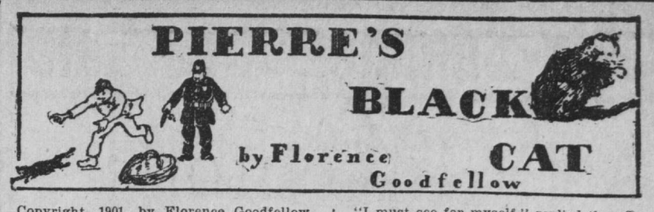
Washington Post.

In the future the mules England purchases in this country are to be chaperoned by negroes. England never will be able to master the mule problem.

It Can Find No Live Issues.

Washington Post.

It is Mr. Herbert's hope that the democratic party will put itself in position to enter upon a hopeful campaign in 1904. It cannot possibly win a race so long as it insists on going onto the track handicapped with dead issues.



Copyright, 1901, by Florence Goodfellow.

Pierre Latroux's mouse-like eyes snapped and sparkled like two jet beads as he listened to the plan Levi Arnold unfolded.

"Mon Dieu!" he exclaimed. "'Tis too good a chance to let slip. You are sure," he added cautiously, "that the scheme is all right so far?"

"Come to my place this evening and I will give you the diamonds, safe and sound. If they reach my client's hands in New York within a month's time you will get your reward in gold—500 francs."

"Good! I'll manage it somehow. Just trust me."

"Without a doubt you've done smuggling before."

Pierre looked up sharply.

"There is no trickery in this, monsieur? If I thought there was, rest assured you would not live to see your plans either succeed or fail," and he drew his hands across his throat with an expression so peculiar that his listener shivered.

"No, you have nothing to fear. Jeremy Stotts told me to come to you. You could not do better than to go to him about me."

"Jeremy Stotts is a man to be trusted. If he sent you, then to-night I'll come for the diamonds. How many did you say there were?"

"Enough for a king's ransom. Remember, Pierre, if you fail—"

Pierre shrugged his shoulders carelessly.

"I've smuggled before! There's a nice bit of superfine tobacco I intend to get across this trip. Oh, never fear, monsieur, if any one can do it, it is Pierre, second officer of the Ocean Queen. Adieu!" And placing between his lips the cigarette he had been rolling, the little Frenchman waved his hand and strolled away.

It was a simple mater, while on board, for the smuggler to keep his diamonds and tobacco concealed, but as the Ocean Queen drew nearer the American shores his heart beat wildly between hope and fear, and woven with all his daily duties was the question: "How? How? How?" For to Pierre's ears had come the rumor of fresh vigilance on the part of the American authorities. Smuggling had become altogether too daring and too frequent. Especially had some tremendous deals in diamonds roused the custom officials to action.

Before the ship had scraped her sides against the pier, however, a plan had been evolved by the Frenchman's ready brain. Inspectors came and went about the ship, but the quick little officer entertained them so wittily that they were more alive to the Frenchman's drollery than to their search.

No smuggled goods of any description were discovered on board the Ocean Queen and the officers of the government left Pierre with regret and the determination to look up the jolly little Frenchman the very next time his ship came in.

A few days after the visit of the inspectors, Pierre, with a huge covered basket on his arm, stepped boldly down the gangplank, across the shipping yard into the street.

He held one hand carefully on the lid of the basket, which was tied down at each side with heavy twine. Certainly his appearance was not calculated to quiet suspicion, and before he had passed the street a policeman touched him on the shoulder.

"Excuse me, sir," he said, "but I shall have to look into that basket."

"Look into my basket!" exclaimed Pierre in well feigned astonishment. "And for why?" he added, holding the lid down more firmly.

"Our orders, sir."

"But my cat is in the basket and she will get away."

"I must see for myself," replied the officer. "I can't take your word for anything like that."

At this the Frenchman became angry. His eyes smouldered like red-hot coals.

"I tell you," he almost screamed, "it's only a cat, and she will run away from me, and I brought her all the way from la belle France for my mother-in-law."

"I can't help it if you brought her all the way from the moon. I've got to see what's in that basket."

"But I tell you it's a cat, and if I open the basket ever so little she will run, and monsieur knows mother-in-laws. Not so?" he asked with a wry face.

"Come! Untie those cords. I'm bound to inspect that basket."

With a rueful countenance Pierre carefully untied the strings. The officer reached out his hand to lift the lid.

"Careful, careful!" exclaimed Pierre, placing a restraining hand on the policeman's sleeve. "I don't want to chase after my cat again. A bon Dieu knows I had trouble enough in getting her as it is," and then he adroitly let the lid fall away.

Instantly a black cat sprang out, and darting between the policeman's legs, disappeared. Pierre had placed the basket on the ground in such a way that when the animal sprang out, the nearest way of escape would be the shipyard. His calculations were correct, and when the officer of the law turned, all he saw was a black tail disappearing through the door in the wall enclosing the yard.

The Frenchman's entire vocabulary was then turned loose, and before he had stopped his cursing in French and English, the policeman almost wished he were as far away as the cat. He honestly felt sorry that he had been so insistent. The Frenchman's distress was so very great. He went so far in his remorse as to offer to return with Pierre and help him find the cat again.

At this, however, the clever little fellow calmed down.

"Bon Dieu!" he exclaimed, "here am I blaming you because you did your duty! If my men did theirs half as well I'd have the finest ship in the service. Your pardon, monsieur," offering his hand with a winning smile, and raising his peaked cap. "I admire you so much now as I blamed you before. I will find my cat again, monsieur, and then you must join me in a toast to America's gendarmes," and placing the lid again on the basket, which had fallen over on the ground, he picked it up and walked quickly back to the ship.

In half an hour he returned with a smile on his face.

"I've got her," he said to the policeman, tapping the basket gently, "and a pretty hunt I had, too! I'll warrant she won't get out again if I know it."

"I'm very sorry, sir, I put you to all that trouble," said the officer, eyeing the basket. "Well, I'll take your word this time."

"That's right, that's right," replied Pierre. "It's never too late to right a wrong. Now for the toast. I do not forget—eh?" he added, leading the way to a nearby saloon.

For some time the two men stood at the bar with the basket at their feet. The Frenchman's ready sallies and stirring anecdotes of the sea kept the crowd around them roaring. Then, when he thought he had remained long enough to avert any suspicion that might linger in the officer's mind, he took his basket on his arm, and accompanied to the corner by the blue coated officer of the law, hailed a passing car, and was soon out of sight. In the meanwhile the black cat frisked in the ship's hold, for in the basket a fortune in diamonds was buried beneath some superfine tobacco.

Daily New York Letter

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No. 21 Park Row, New Yor.

Croker's Silence.

Aug. 7.—Though Crokerism as an issue will never be eliminated from New York politics so long as Richard Croker is alive, evidence continues to accumulate that the Tammany chieftain's personality at least will not be a factor in the coming campaign. The refusal of John F. Carroll, Croker's Tammany messenger boy, and Frank H. Croker, the chief's son, who have just returned from England, to make any statement of when Mr. Croker may be expected on this side, has had the effect of accentuating this impression among the Tammany braves. And by many them this reticence on the part of the chieftain's emissaries is anything but gratefully received. It is they who are the bone and sinew of Tammany's power, and they naturally feel that their allegiance to the organization should at least guarantee them against being snubbed concerning a matter of such importance at this critical time. Besides, there are other evidences of Mr. Croker's determination to let Tammany shift for itself for the present, and many of the lesser luminaries of the wigwam say the rank and file are growing restive under the suspense. The fact that Mr. Croker's sister and her husband are going to visit the Tammany leader in his English home so late in the season is having the effect of confirming Tammany men in their belief that they will have to work out their salvation without assistance from the chief. His health is good there, his son declares; much better even than in New York. So the outlook seems rather cerulean for those who fear that Tammany's star can remain in the ascendant only while the dictator blazes the way. By the anti-Tammany elements the oyster proclivities of Mr. Carroll are looked upon with complacency. While it is true they would prefer to have some positive expression of what Mr. Croker intends to do in order that their fight against the machine may have definite direction, nevertheless the idea prevails that the refusal of Mr. Carroll to talk arises out of the fact that the tiger is rattled to such an extent that it is uncertain which way to jump, and that nothing is said because there is nothing to say.

Worried About Mr. Carnegie.

"Say, young man," said the nice-looking gentleman, who admitted that he had socialistic tendencies, "where is Andrew Carnegie going to come out in this steel strike? You see, there has been so much written and said about the $280,000,000 that is a burden to the steel king, and the disgrace connected with dying rich. Of course, there is no doubt about the disgrace end of it. Therefore, it is only natural that Mr. Carnegie should try to get rid of this burden. But did it ever strike you that possibly he may get rid of it in a different way than he expected? This strike is going to raise trouble, particularly in steel stocks. Probably before it is over Mr. Carnegie will not have all of that $280,000,000 that he is trying so hard to dispose of; but then, I reckon, he will still have enough to build the libraries that he has contracted for and be able to keep the wolf from the door as long as he lives."

Platt Saving the State.

Great things are expected from a conference of the republican big-wigs taking place this week at Senator Platt's summer headquarters at the Oriental Hotel, Manhattan Beach. Governor Odell is there, and Colonel George W. Dunn, chairman of the state committee. They will remain several days, and the confab, it is anticipated, will be full of results bearing on the fall campaign. The governor has just finished his tour of inspection of the state institutions, and must have accumulated, in addition, much valuable local political information. New York is not the only big city in which a mayoralty election will be held this fall, and, in addition, plans must be laid by which the republican party may keep as many as possible of the 105 assembly districts it now controls, and the democratic strength equally close to its present forty-five votes. The legislature is ever Senator Platt's political specialty.

To Keep the Irish at Home.

Michael Davitt, the Irish agitator, who landed here yesterday, will join with Bishop Scalabrini in investigating the two important factors of immigration to the United States the Irish and the Italian. "The most important problem in Ireland to-day is its emigration to America," says Mr. Davitt. "This country has too many Irish. It is safe to say that 40,000 of our people come here every year. You are draining us of our population. In 1846 Ireland had a population of 8,000,000; now she has barely 4,000,000." This new movement to keep the Irish at home was started by a sermon delivered by Archbishop Keane of Dubuque, Iowa, at the dedication of the cathedral in his native town, Letterkenny, Ireland, last month. This is Mr. Davitt's eighteenth trip to America. He says that he will be here two months, and during that time he will speak before Irish societies in eight or ten of the large cities. He will address no gathering before the large one announced at Chicago on Aug. 15. Mr. Davitt says that he will make his greatest appeal for a curtailing of Irish immigration when he speaks at Boston.

Religion Losing Ground.

Speaking in Detroit last Sunday, Archbishop Ireland, in a public address, said: "Religion is rapidly losing ground. There are men especially who never breathe a sigh of prayer toward heaven, many of them in public places, where their influence and example are bad. Day by day science and philosophy are raking the place of religion. Papers and magazines reflect these ideas." Here in New York it is charged that Protestant church attendance this summer is so small as to excite remark. Supplies who come to metropolitan pulpits and do not bring famous names with them get scarcely any hearers at all, while ministers from other cities who have made names for themselves fare little, if any better. The curious explanation is offered that the reason of the small attendance upon divine services in this city this year is found in the increased financial prosperity of the country, which enables so many people to leave the city. In Brooklyn and some sections on this side of the river, however, the public complaint has been made of the inability to get ministers to attend to occasional calls of necessity from those who have had to stay in the city. In Brooklyn, in some instances, several churches have clubbed together and retained a supply minister, who advertises that he is ready when called on to officiate for such and such congregations. Sunday school workers have in many instances closed their schools in this city, solely because their children are away.

A New Atheism.

Rev. G. Campbell Morgan preached his first sermon in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, and commented on the reports concerning small church attendance. "I am told that all the people in Brooklyn and New York are away," he said. "When in Brooklyn two weeks ago I was told that 'this church was closed,' that half of those in the city had been shut up, because the people were away. I tell you this is a lie. On Sunday evenings thousands of people sit on their doorsteps and on the benches in the parks. The trouble is that there is a new atheism abroad, strange and subtle. Let it go no further, or it will work your own destruction."

THE CAPTAIN'S REVENGE

In Burnaby's "Travels in America in 1759" the following incident is related:

"The captain of a British man-of-war cruising off the Massachusetts coast left his wife in Boston. On one of his visits to port she came down to the wharf to meet him, and she was saluted as a true and loving sailor's wife deserved. This violation of law was at once reported, and the captain was brought before the magistrate and sentenced to be public whipping. There was no getting out of it, and the captin submitted quite gracefully.

"Just before the departure of his ship he gave an elaborate entertainment, to which all of the magistrates were invited. After the festivities were over, and every one had shaken hands with the captain and was going over his side, the magistrates were seized by the arm and stripped to the waist. Each one was led to the gangway, where a vigorous boatswain gave him thirty-nine lashes on the bare back and then hustled him over into a boat, amid the cheers of the whole ship's company."

Object Lesson in Coal Prices.

Cleveland Leader.

Trust promoters may talk all they please about the benign effects of business monopolies, but few men of ordinary sense in the United States doubt that the sharp rise in the price of hard coal which has been decided upon, to take effect in midsummer, can be charged to the "understanding among gentlemen" which stifles competition in anthracite coal mining. One such object lesson is more weighty than unlimited theorizing.