THE JOURNAL

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SUBSCRIPTION TERMS
Payable to The Journal Printing Co.
Delivered by Mail.

One copy, one month	$0.35
One copy, three months	1.00
One copy, six months	2.00
One copy, one year	4.00
Saturday Eve. edition, 20 to 26 pages	1.50

Delivered by carrier

One copy, one week	8 cents
One copy, one month	35 cents
Single copy	2 cents

Advertisers Prove Circulation.

THE MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL

made a great gain in advertising January, 1902, compared with January, 1901.

Over 94 Columns Ahead

The Journal carried nearly double the advertising of its all day contemporary.

Here Are the Figures:

	Columns.
JOURNAL	1143
Tribune, all day issue	682

The Minneapolis Journal's circulation for January, 1902, averaged

51,438

A Service Rendered by the Tax Commission

Whatever may be the fate of the proposed tax bill now before the legislature, it will no doubt be conceded that the members of the tax commission, acting under the instructions of the legislature, have performed a valuable service to the state. They were instructed to, and it was manifestly intended by the legislature that they should, prepare a tax law for adoption at this session. They were instructed to provide for the taxation of all property, tangible and intangible, and, of course, were compelled to do it under the terms of the existing constitution.

That the operation of such a system of taxation, impartially enforced, has met with many objections and appears to inflict some peculiar hardships is not the fault of the commission. They have framed an excellent piece of machinery, no doubt, and have carried out what they were instructed to provide for in the way of a system of taxation. In that system they have, in fact, inaugurated no new principle to which exception can be taken; they have done little more in that connection than to provide the machinery for the effective operation of the principles already in existence.

But acting upon the further instructions of the legislature to make recommendations, they have gone beyond the mere service of providing the machinery for carrying out effectively the principles already established, and have made valuable proposals with regard to changes in the constitution and exceedingly helpful suggestions as to what different principles and forms of taxation might profitably be employed in this state.

Although their work may not be adopted at this session in whole or in part, the service which the commission has rendered in educating the general public on the subject of taxation is worth many times the cost, including the expense of a special session and the time which the business men have given during the past two weeks to the study of the tax question. It is worth a great deal to get the attention of business men so firmly fixed upon a public question. It encourages the hope that it may diminish in a measure the indifference which they so often manifest toward public affairs.

A compromise by any other name would scarcely smell so sweet. There was, for instance, the Jacobson compromise in the lower house of the legislature yesterday. In effect Mr. Jacobson secured precisely the course the friends of the tax law had hoped for by a slight change in the phraseology of the motion and its formal stamping as a "compromise."

Speaker Henderson's Blunder

Speaker Henderson appears to have made a mistake past understanding. How any man in his senses and in touch with public opinion in this country could have imagined that more seats in congress depended upon the good will of the beet sugar men than upon the honorable determination of the masses to do something for Cuba is more than we can understand. The only possible explanation is that the speaker does not read the papers. It has been stated that, engrossed in the duties of his responsible office he often allows a week to pass without glancing at a paper. If that be true he is less in touch and sympathy with national sentiment than the average Minnesota farmer in a remote county.

It is very doubtful whether the granting of a concession of 50 per cent to Cuban sugar would cause the loss of a single seat in congress. But it is certain that, if the republican party, as represented in congress, should give such a sublime exhibition of indifference to the popular will—and in this case a most just will—as to ignore the indisputable claims of Cuba upon this nation no man can tell how many seats in congress will be swallowed up by the tidal wave of reaction that will follow.

The trouble with the lower house of congress is that under the Reed rules it has become insulated from the electric currents of public opinion and national thought. The adoption of great measures without debate, as decided upon in little committee meetings, gives no opportunity for the mass of the members of the house to be impressed with the views of the people. We do not hold that a representative either in congress or the legislature is to be a mere jumping jack who moves only in response to some impulse supposed or actual, from his people; but we do hold that members of congress in making up their minds should be subjected to the influence of public opinion. There is a pronounced public opinion in this country to-day that is capable of taking a larger view of national acts and policies than most congressmen, shut up in Washington with themselves, with their thoughts and energies absorbed in little local matters or in the details of appropriations or purely administrative questions.

Judge Noyes is now to have a hearing on the merits of his case. He might easily have been guilty of contempt of court without being tainted with corruption, as his enemies have charged. The hearing before the attorney general will relate wholly to the Nome scandal. It affords a splendid opportunity for the judge to vindicate himself. If he has really been the victim of a merciless and bloodthirsty mining syndicate that has pursued him like a Nemesis it would seem as if evidence to that effect could be adduced before the attorney general.

The Damnation of Payne

Lumber jumped up the other day from 50 cents to $2 per thousand. This fact will not tend to make unpopular Representative Babcock's remark to Representative Sereno Payne about going up into Wisconsin to seek perdition. The awful, the portentious suggestion of the fat congressman from New York, whose bulky frame caused "our plain duty" toward Porto Rico to come to grief, arouses, strangely enough, one vast grin throughout the northwestern lumber producing states.

Come on, Sereno; come on, invade Wisconsin and eke Minnesota and Michigan, breathing disaster and destruction to the lumber tariffs, and you will find none to stay your hand. Our lumbermen are too busy filling orders to think about tariffs, and our people are too busy trying to catch up with the ascending lumber prices to do aught to interfere with the man who would knock out the lumber tariff.

When Sereno starts out to accept the cordial invitation from the gentleman of Wisconsin as to choosing a location for his damnation we would be in favor of sending "a silver helicon band" and a delegation of prom. cits. to meet him at Chicago and receive him with honor. We even think there would be little objection if the band should play 'The Conquering Hero Comes," as the train bearing the iconoclastic Payne on his mission of destruction goes "up into Wisconsin."

It is reported that hay press and cotton press men are bidding for the services of twin city street car conductors. This is the outcome of a close inspection of the admirable work of these conductors in getting 152½ people into a 30-foot car with seats for fifty.

National Banks as Depositories

Secretary Shaw says, in a letter to Congressman Sulzer, of New York, as to the deposit of government funds in national banks throughout the country, which has just been made public, that, if the surplus money in the treasury in excess of $50,000,000 working capital, had been deposited in the clearing house cities in proportion to the relative capital of each bank, with no other security than upon the bank's assets, at 2 per cent interest for the government, the latter would have realized $32,000,000 and the banks would have been able to increase credit accommodations to the public to the extent of $200,000,000.

The secretary also says it would be wise for the government to make such deposits upon security other than United States bonds.

It is evident from this that the secretary favors credit currency and the large extension of government deposits of surplus funds in the national banks in clearing-house cities. Under the national banking law the issue of non-elastic currency seems to be compulsory. The state banks are taxed too heaily to issue notes and the banks authorized to issue notes find the cost of government bonds, the required form of security, so great, that it does not pay to issue notes against them. There would certainly appear to be no peril in permitting banks to issue currency against their assets or upon the credit of the banks, under proper restrictions for safety. The Bank of France and the Imperial Bank of Germany and other banks in Europe are allowed to issue currency from 10 to 20 times the amount of the capital. No valid objection has yet been made to the basing of circulation on other than government bonds, such as municipal and railway bonds payable in gold and which have not fallen below par for several years preceding their acceptance as security and secured by tangible and available values.

As to security for deposits of surplus government money in the national banks in clearing-house cities, the law now permits the secretary of the treasury to accept other than United States bonds as security for public deposits. If there are bonds sufficiently secure to guard government deposits, the same bonds would obviously be sufficient security for bank issues, wouldn't they?

Iron the Barometer of Trade

Iron has long been considered the barometer of the business world. What iron does the country does. In no other line are the changes in productivity so sure an index of corresponding changes in the general prosperity of the country.

It is interesting in this connection to note, from the statistical report for last year, just completed by Mr. James M. Swank of the American Iron & Steel association, that the United States produced last year 2,089,112 tons more pig iron than ever before. For the first time in our history we made as much iron as England and Germany combined. We turned out last year, 15,878,354 tons. It might be supposed that with this increased production a larger visible supply of pig iron would be in evidence, but consumption has kept pace with demand, and at the close of 1901, there were only 73,647 tons carried unsold in first hands, compared with 446,020 tons in 1900. One surprising thing in connection with this report, is the showing that the southern states made less iron in 1901 than in the preceding year, having turned out only 2,578,864 tons compared with 2,604,671.

A few years ago when the southern iron fields were being opened, the prediction was freely made that the iron industry in the north would necessarily decline, as with fuel, ore and flax in close proximity, the south had evident advantages. This has not followed, Pennsylvania with 7,343,247 tons, made three times as much as the entire south, while Ohio produced three-quarters of a million more at 3,326,425 tons. That the south has made such relatively small progress, is due in some degree to the fact that the southern producers have had to go outside their borders to market the bulk of their pig iron, while in the north much of it is converted into steel and finished products in which form it comes on sale. Steel works are now being erected in the south with a view to overcoming this handicap and future years may show a change in the relative producing importance of the two sections. One striking feature of the past year's review in iron is the fact that with the most urgent demand ever known, prices were held within reasonable bounds. This was due principally to the efforts of the United States Steel corporation, which company desiring to keep all of its mills steadily in operation on a dividend paying basis, threw its influence towards the maintainance of stable prices, in order to prevent a boom, with the subsequent disastrous price reactions that invariably follow.

The Philippines seem to be a land where the women long ago came into their own. A few days ago General Bell, who is pacifying Batangas, declared that the political influence of the native women is potent. Now Governor Taft testifies that the women of the Philippines occupy a "superior" position and that they are the active managers in general affairs. The governor even quotes Nozaleda, the Spanish archbishop, as saying that if political rights are to be granted to the Filipinos they should be conferred upon the women. If the women occupy the commanding position they are represented as holding, would it not be logical and right to give them the elective franchise on the same basis that it is given to men?

Philippine Conditions

The senate committee on the Philippines seems to be getting very interesting testimony from witnesses as to the condition of affairs on the islands. The testimony of Governor Taft is especially interesting and valuable. The high character and high standing of that gentleman preclude the idea of false testimony. He discloses the flimsy character of the charges made by De Armond of Missouri in the house and reiterated by certain democratic journals, who make a business of assailing their own government and flag and asserting that the Filipinos have only exchanged one frightful despotism for another which is far worse, even the despotism of the United States government.

As a remedy for this alleged inhuman condition, these philanthropists propose that the United States government shall scuttle out of the archipelago and leave the Philippines to a bloody chaos and to the seizure of the archipelago by a European power. Governor Taft shows that civil government has been established in the thirty-four Filipino provinces, natives having been chosen to positions wherever jealousies did not prevent, and the temporary governments will be made permanent this month, the positions to be filled by the officers elected this week. The hostile area in Luzon has been reduced to the minimum. The islands of Negros and Samar are giving little trouble and Governor Taft said that he knew that the great majority of the people of the islands desired peace and that the insurgents were preventing the people from settling down and making a living in peace. The insurgents still at large, and who are lauded and glorified by men in congress and out of it, are keeping up a reign of terror in the districts they pervade and making war upon their own people as well as upon the United States.

Governor Taft properly characterized this obstructive work as "a crime against civilization and against the Filipino people" and said that the insurgents have worn out the right to any treatment but that which is severe and within the laws of war. The conditions in the Philippines give the lie to the statements made by the American assailants of our government.

No region of the earth is crushed under the heels of a cruel and relentless despotism where net customs receipts from Philippine goods are turned into the insular treasury for the betterment of insular conditions; where $3,000,000 a year is spent in public works, and a million dollars a year is spent for public education.

There is no despotism in control, where 150,000 pupils are enrolled in free primary schools, where they are taught the principles of free government and where thousands of adults are earnestly seeking to acquire a knowledge of our language, institutions, laws and government.

Several hundred towns have organized municipal governments under the new law devised by the commission which has worked to the highest satisfaction of the people, and millions are expending upon the construction of good roads to take the place of the paths and trails which reticulate the islands, and in building bridges over the many rivers. When congress passes a law permitting the granting of franchises, under proper regulations, there will be large investment of capital in mining and lumbering operations and railway construction which will bring out all the industrial activity of the natives and stimulate trade and social betterment.

There are problems to be solved in the Philippines, of course, but there will never be the slightest difficulty in solving them on the basis of the principles laid down by the late President McKinley in his instructions to the Taft commission in 1900, and by President Roosevelt in his message of December 3 last, to congress. He put the national policy in a nutshell when he said: "We hope to make our administration of the islands honorable to our nation by making it the highest benefit to the Filipinos themselves, and as an earnest of what we intend to do, we point to what we have done" and "encouragement, direct or indirect, to the insurgents stands on the same footing as encouragement to hostile Indians in the days when we still had Indian wars."

NO UNDERGROUND TELEGRAMS

London Express.

Replying to a letter of the London Chamber of Commerce, the postmaster general holds out no hope of a general underground telegraphic service. After alluding to its impracticability and prohibitive cost, Lord Londonderry says that the present condition of the national finances makes it impossible to undertake the experiment in the immediate future. To the suggestion of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, that a sufficient number of wires for emergency purposes should be laid underground between the principal commercial centers, Lord Londonderry replied that the work would be proceeded with as the funds for the time being allowed.

The Nonpareil Man

Casually Observed.

General Funston has had considerable trouble since his return. The Emporia brass band met him at the depot and blew out a fuse, and he has had another operation for appendicitis.

Maud has the measles. Maud is not, perhaps, the party you suspect. She is a town in Missouri.

Some over-cautious people are terribly fearful lest the balance of power or something will be overturned because Miss Roosevelt wants to go to the coronation. Shucks, let the child have her little pleasures. This country is safe.

The University of Chicago has installed a model steam plant, which will provide heat and power for all of the buildings of the institution. It is chiefly interesting because it consumes thirty tons a day of black and dirty soft coal, and yet not a speck of smoke is seen issuing from the chimney. The apparent miracle is worked by the operation of a mechanical stoking device, including a system of injecting heated air into the furnace to assist in the combustion. It may cost a little more, but think how pretty your chimney looks.

An article in the London Illustrated Mail asks "Is Britain Running Out of Coal?" We do not know much about Britain, but we know that there are a lot of people up this way who are in that fix.

Groundhog or no groundhog, we are always pretty sure to get six weeks more of winter at this time.

Two years ago Mayor Hugo beat Mr. Truelsen for mayor of Duluth by six votes. This year he beat him by eight votes. This shows that just one man flopped from Truelsen to Hugo in the two years. He ought to be found.

Waterbury, Conn., cannot be wound up by a little thing like a fire.

A young man at Cedar City, Mo., has started out to chop up saloons with an ax. It is feared the cross saloonkeeper will not respect his person as he did that of Mrs. Nation.

The Kansas City Star says that when "Bill" and "George" and "Tom" politics became intolerable in Kansas the people kicked the republican party out of power. They smashed a machine majority of 82,000 into smithereens, and even submitted to the remedy of a populist administration. This bit of political philosophy is worthy of thoughtful consideration.

A Cleveland, Ohio, cat tried to trip up a street car, and as she is a rich lady's cat she now sports a wooden leg which is good for about everything except tree climbing.

Who Can Escape?

The advertising columns of some of the Japanese papers are fully as amusing as the "Personals" in the yellow press of this favored land. A dainty little lady recently advertised as follows in the Aanazawa Shembum:

I am a handsome girl, with hair that is abundant and as wavy as the scudding cloud; my face has the brilliance and satin-like gloss of flowers, and my waist is as supple as a willow tree. I am endowed with wealth sufficient to saunter through life with some loved one whose hand will be forever clasped in mine. Were I to meet a gracious lord, kindly, well educated and of good taste and manners, I will unite myself to him for life, and later will share with him the pleasure of being laid to rest eternal in a tomb of rose-colored marble.

What chance has "mere man" in the kingdom of the sun?

The Man Who Knows It All.

The Indianapolis Sentinel says you can always tell a man who thinks he is great by the way he speaks of other great men. "When he alludes to the president as 'Teddy,' to Chief Justice Fuller as 'Mel' Fuller or to Senator Cullum as 'Shelly," you may be sure that he must be something of a person at least in his own estimation. Such fellows, had they lived in Egypt at the time of the exodus, would have spoken of 'Mose' and 'Josh' as familiarly as if they were everyday companions." This is a fairly true criticism and you may also be sure that the party referred to knows just how the government ought to be run, what our colonial and tariff policies ought to be and wherein this land is now drifting from its moorings post haste to destruction and everlasting smash.

By Cable to the Journal.

Constantinople, Feb. 5.—(Special Dispatch)—The Turkish legislature met to-day and re-elected its old officers. There seemed to be considerable feeling between the representatives of the Kurds and of the Armenians but no overt act took place before the opening.

Terrific Pasha, a Kurd, introduced a resolution of sympathy for the Boers "in their heroic struggle for liberty" and asked the leader of the majority if Turkey had taken any steps to intervene and to protect a defenseless people from extermination.

The leader of the Turkish party, Hatchet Pasha, replied that no such action had been taken to his knowledge because England's navy was much larger than the Turkish navy.

An Armenian said he understood that the Turkish navy would at once sink if it moved out of port. He was immediately slaughtered by the Kurd, the chair, or as it is known in Turkey, the ottoman, rapping in vain for order during the slaughter.

The Armenians protested against the slaughter as unparliamentary but, the ottoman (old Turkish party) ruled that the slaughter of Armenians was always in order. (Kurdish applause.)

Terrific Pasha said that if the Kurds wished to interfere with England's little game they would also find it necessary to take on the United States, which was engaged in subduing the brave Filipinos, many of whom were Mohamedans. Personally he favored a declaration of war against the United States because of their bill for $90,000 recently collected of Turkey and of their inhumanity in general. Perhaps Cuba was a good example! (Sensation.)

A member of the Young Turkish party who was always putting his foot in it, moved the selection of a committee of inquiry by the chair, to consist of seven members, to investigate the story that the ransom money for Miss Stone, the American missionary, was now reposing in the Turkish treasury.

This occasioned a terrible uproar, in the midst of which the United States minister in the diplomatic gallery began shooting.

The session broke up in much disorder.

—A. J. Russell.

BLINDING FOODS

London Leader.

Some foods, it is said, are very injurious to the sight. "A case was brought under the notice of an eye specialist," says the Dioptic Review, "in which the eyes of a whole family were affected by eating rabbit pie. In each instance the patient had become afflicted with a peculiar defect of vision that is technically known as 'failure of accommodation.' Stale sausages and sour cream cause a weakening of the sight known as 'amblobia.' Blindness resulting from eating tainted fish has been found almost impossible to cure, and quinine is also responsible for some persons' half-blind condition. This drug affects the optic nerve in a manner that sometimes ends in blindness."

VACCINATION OF PLANTS

Independance Belge, Brussels.

The idea of securing to plants immunity from parasitic diseases by means of vaccination has been conceived by M. Julien Ray, a French botanist. The idea is original but perfectly logical, the elementary functions being the same in plants and in animals. Vegetable biology does not differ in its essential principles from animal biology, and parasitic diseases, whether microbial or fungoid, are analogous in both.

How Bequests Increase in Value.

Two centuries ago, says the Westminster Gazette, William France, of West Leigh, Lancashier, bequeathed lands, of the then value of about £10, for doles each Christmastide to the West Leigh poor. The gift now brings in nearly £450 per annum, and, despite the gift of £1,000 eight years ago to Leigh technical schools, the trustees had recently sufficient capital on hand to make a grant of £,000 toward Lehigh infirmary. Leigh grammar school is also to receive £250 per annum.

OTHER PEOPLE'S NOTIONS

FEDERAL CONTROL INEVITABLE

Philadelphia Press.

It is, as the attorney general of Minnesota has weightily said in his speech, a deliberate evasion of the law of Minnesota through the creation of a New Jersey corporation, which, by acquiring the stock of two parallel roads in Minnesota, practically consolidates them. The state of Minnesota finds itself, therefore, in a position where it is unable, with regard to railroads passing over its teritory and affecting the interests of all its citizens, to prevent deliberate violation of the law by a corporation organized in New Jersey, but completely out of its jurisdiction. It, therefore, makes its appearance in the supreme court as a sovereign state to secure from the federal government the redress which a sovereign state similarly attacked and not a party to a federal union would assert either by drastic legislation or by force of arms.

Attorney General Douglas was wise enough to make this single, sharp and definite assertion the center of his case. The strength of his position is sufficiently shown by the counter argument of W. D. Guthrie and his associates, including ex-Attorney General Griggs, that Minnesota had no way, and, in the nature of things, could have no way, of meeting this summary nullification of its statute and public policy by a New Jersey corporation, because no law and no constitutional principle existed under which a state could expect to control the action of either persons or corporations outside of its own boundaries. The state could not, the federal government was not authorized to act, the supreme court had no jurisdiction, whether a wrong existed or not; no remedy was presented by the constitutional system under which the people of the United States live.

Whether this is good law or not, it is undoubtedly believed to be good law by the strongest body of counsel which could be gathered by the largest aggregation of railroad capital now known. It undoubtedly brings to a sharp and definite focus the complete collapse of the power of the state to enforce any definite public policy with reference to any railroad consolidation or direction. Whether it is well that the two railroads concerned should merge and end competition or not is an economic issue; but there is probably no American citizen who does not believe that the people, acting either through a state or federal government, should have the power to act in the matter and regulate these stupendous changes in the regulation of capital and of railroads.

No such power exists according to the contention of the counsel for the Northern Securities company. If it is possible for a New Jersey corporation to own two railroads, it would be possible for a New Jersey corporation to own all the railroads in the country. If it is possible to nullify by such a course these statutory limitations of a state on the capital and consolidation of lines within these limits, it is possible, by such a course, to nullify these statutes in all the states.

The argument of Mr. Guthrie and his associates, therefore, leads directly and logically to the conclusion that the railroad problem is already altogether outside of any state control. States may still, through their commissions, regulate lesser matters, such as a place where a station has to be established, special accommodations for the public and other lesser details; but the weightier questions of capital, consolidation and rates have wholly passed out of their control. Nothing is left but federal control and regulation. If this once becomes clear, such control and regulation will be near—nearer than most believe—and the little finger of federal control will be thicker than the loins of state regulation. Rates will be decreed and capital dealt with by federal power after a drastic fashion unknown to state powers.

He Favors the New Tax Law.

To the Editor of The Journal.

An editorial in a Sunday paper on "Public Service Corporation" is disappointing and misleading. Ostensibly it is an argument for the interests of the "small property owner," ringing in the "widow and orphan" argument. It says that the man from Stillwater, who sent in a communication against the new tax law, writes more like a lawyer than a motorman, which suggests that the letter may have been, possibly was, written by a Twin City Rapid Transit lawyer.

The editor says that the new tax law will be hard on the corporations and on everybody. Why? Is it not right that each one, individual or corporation, shall pay taxes upon his property and upon all of his property? Why should not I, a "small property" owner, pay a tax upon my $500 in the bank? If I take that money out and buy a lot with it, I have to pay taxes on it. Here are two men, each with $5,000. One purchases a lot, builds a house, and makes improvements with his money; the other places his $5,000 in the bank to draw interest. Why should the first pay taxes and the second not? The argument is absurd. If there is to be any remission of taxes in either of these cases it should be to the man who put his money into the house, and became a public benefactor by helping to build up the town.

Then the point is advanced that to tax the street railway company, or public service corporations, would not be just because it would cut into the dividend. That is what a tax always does. Why should not the street railway pay the same rate of tax upon its privilege to do business in the streets as "Coffee John" does to do business on First avenue near the postoffice? Both have advantageous locations, which enhance the value of their property, and each ought to pay the regular rate of tax upon that enhanced value. A franchise is a special privilege to do business, of the street railway, to monopolize a certain part of the public highway and there carry on business, a privilage which is valuable, worth money, and can be turned into cash any day. Why should not such property be taxed at its full value, as well as the "widow's and orphan's" lot on Riverside avenue? Is it not the height of ingratitude for those to whom such privileges have been granted to be continually attempting to evade the rate of taxation that other people have to bear?

The editorial continues, that "the corporation side of the case is attracting mighty little interest and causing mighty little discussion." This is adroit. It is apprehended that the facts really are, as the editor says later, that "the corporations can take care of themselves," and are taking care of themselves. They are doing just that by using the "small property owner" as a "pusher."

Again, the editor says that the "small property owner" cannot take care of himself, as the corporations can, hence, he will have to pay taxes upon all of his property, as he has always done, and will continue to do. And this is right. The new tax law proposes to have public service corporations do the same, which they have never done.

One is almost appalled at the estimate placed upon the moral fibre of the men in public service corporations in this editorial, when it says that "the new tax law would breed a riot of perjury, bribery and corruption." Are these men really so bad? If this estimate is correct, and they really have it in their hearts to do such things, then it would be well to watch them closely.

As a "small property owner" I favor the new tax law. It is an honest attempt to equalize taxes. Every paragraph of it breathes honesty, equality and fairness; and, if it becomes a law, as I hope it will, it will do as much towards upholding the arm of justice and righteousness as any law that has ever been passed by the legislature of Minnesota.

—Small Property Owner.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

Wit without coarseness, and humor that is unctuous and satisfying are characteristic features of "The Parish Priest," with which Daniel Sully and his capable company are pleasing the patrons of the Metropolitan this week. Four more performances, including the matinee Saturday, of this play, will conclude the present engagement.

Melbourne MacDowell and Miss Florence Stone in Sardou's famous play "La Tosca," will be the Metropolitan's attraction for the first four nights of next week, beginning Sunday evening. By reason of his natural physical fitness for the part of the prefect of police, and the maturing and mellowing of years of experience, Mr. MacDowell is said to give us a character in Scarpia which stamps him as a great actor. Miss Stone will appear in the title role.

The many lovers of stirring melodrama are being offered a treat in the presentation at the Bijou this week of Joseph Arthur's latest and best effort, "Lost River." The scenic effects are out of the ordinary, several scenes of unusual magnitude and beauty being shown.

The last half of next week at the Metropolitan will be devoted to a sumptuous revival of Shakspere's comedy, "The Taming of the Shrew," with Charles B. Hanford as Petruchio. Although Mr. Hanford has appeared successfully in a number of Shaksperian roles he is conceded to be at his best in this famous character. Mr. Hanford is supported by an exceptionally talented company.

The announcement that David Belasco's great romantic drama, "The Heart of Maryland," is to be seen again at the Bijou next week has created no little interest. As it comes this season presented by an exceptionally strong company, headed by Miss Helene Wintner with all the magnificent original scenic equipment it may be predicted with confidence that the engagement will be a financially as well as artistically successful one.

A MASTER OF DISGUISE

London Mail.

The most sensational trial of smugglers which has taken place for many years has commenced at Pontarlier, on the Franco-Swiss frontier.

The leader of the band, a man named Derobert, and 224 of his associates, are charged with attempting to claudestinely pass a large quantity of tobacco and phosphorus across the French frontier. Seventy-eight French and Swiss customs officials are cited as witnesses.

Derobert, a man of extraordinary cunning, was known on the frontier as the king of smugglers. His ingenious ruses were worthy of Sherlock Holmes. At his house were discovered hundreds of disguises, consisting of false beards and moustaches, wigs and complete suits of clothes representing workmen, gentlemen, commercial travelers, etc., in every detail.

Derobert's method was daring and most cunning. Accompanied by a single confederate he would disguise himself and take a first, second, or third-class railway ticket (according to his disguise). He would then take the train at a Swiss station, generally at Geneva or Lausanne, where confederates awaited him with large quantities of tobacco and phosphorus carefully concealed in boxes as baggage.

As soon as the train started he would commence concealing the dultable goods. Cushions would be ripped open, beams would be drilled through, the floor of the carriage taken up and carefuly readjusted after the tobacco had been put out of sight. Derobert even had false keys for opening the guard's private drawers and boxes in which he often concealed his goods.

The smuggler generally took by preference a fast night train. When the frontier was crossed and the customhouse passed he would replace the tobacco, etc., in his boxes or traveling bags, which were then handed over to accomplices awaiting their chief on the French stations.

It is estimated, according to the prosecution, that by these means the French government has been robbed of nearly £10,000 during the last two years.

The custom-house officials were aware of the leakage, but all their plans and ruses failed in discovering the culprits. Derobert was at last arrested a little while ago while crossing the frontier with a large consignment of timber, which was found to be full of tobacco and phosphorus ingeniously inserted into hollows made in the wood.

On account of the great number of witnesses the case will not be finished before Friday next.

IT'S DIFFERENT NOW

Julian Ralph, N. Y. Mail and Express.

When Grover Cleveland occupied the White House during his second term, and his little children needed a place in which to play and get what fresh air they could, it was no longer safe for the gates to be left unlocked or for strangers to use these private grounds as a public passageway. Mr. Cleveland therefore ordered the gates kept shut and locked. Presumably he supposed that if he asked no more privacy and exerted no more authority over his dwelling than the humblest citizen is entitled to there would be no fault found with his behavior.

He quickly learned better. In the press, in the streets, in the homes—everywhere that man met man or spoke or wrote to men, he was condemned for his behavior, which was declared to be undemocratic, exclusive, selfish and unpardonable. He felt obliged to revoke his order and allow the gates to be opened during those morning and evening hours when the clerks next door felt that their rights—even out of doors—were greater than the president's rights in his own home. If I remember correctly, this concession to the clerks was churlishly accepted and the president was made to feel that he was still behaving like a snob.

To-day Theodore Roosevelt is president. He has looked over and around his house and has seen strangers tramping across his grounds. He did not take a second look before he ordered the gates closed, locked and kept locked.

What then?

Nothing.

Nobody has protested. Nobody has commented favorably or unfavorably upon the action; indeed, no one has had a word to say regarding it. Lucky President Roosevelt, who can do as he pleases and be sure that he will please practically everybody. Everybody—that is, except the politicians.

GETTING EVEN WITH PAXTON

By MARY WOOD

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Gerald Hastings watched Frank Paxton's retreating form till the latter turned down Oak street. Then he clutched fiercely the little hand that crept into his and turned to its owner.

"You don't love him, do you, Dot?" he asked earnestly.

She made a moue. "You foolish boy!" she laughed. "How many times must I tell you that I love you, and you only? Mr. Paxton is a very entertaining young gentleman, and we are all very glad to have him come here as frequently as he does, especially papa."

Gerald gritted his teeth.

"Especially papa!" he said, angrily. "Naturally he prefers the cashier of the First National bank to the operator for the Western Union company at $18 a week."

She laid a dainty hand across his lips.

"You mustn't speak that way, Gerald," she said demurely. "Remember, he is my father and may be yours some day."

He caught her eagerly in his arms. "Tell me, Dot," he said earnestly, "is there really all this hope for me?"

She looked into his face with innocent, trusting eyes. "If I don't marry you, I won't marry any one," she promised.

"Well," he said, releasing her, "if Paxton doesn't keep away from here, I'm going to have trouble with him one of these days."

Dorothy laughed, but there was an undercurrent of seriousness in her voice as she said: "You mustn't talk that way, Gerald. It's foolish and unnecessary. You must remember that papa is a heavy stockholder in the bank and that Mr. Paxton is a protege of Mr. Spencer, the president, who has asked father to be particularly kind to him. Mr. Paxton is a very charming young man, but has never made it evident that he wants to marry me."

"Except by coming around about five nights a week," supplemented Hastings.

"Well," she laughed, "you always outstay him, and—and—"

"And to the victor belong the spoils," finished Gerald, making his meaning clear. There was the frou frou of skirts, and as Dorothy disappeared, Hastings strolled down the quiet village street.

Matters had been tacitly understood between him and Dorothy for a long time, and when he had obtained the position as operator at the depot he had hoped soon to be able to make her his wife. Then the First National bank was established in Tabor, and, to the surprise of everybody, Almon Spencer, who had been elected president, appointed Frank Paxton as cashier. The action had excited no little comment, for Paxton was a New Yorker, and Tabor felt that the position should have gone to a local man. Gerald had at first hoped to secure the place himself, and now it seemed to him that Paxton had cut him out of everything. A fierce desire for vengeance filled his heart as he made his way homeward.

His feelings had not changed the next morning when he took his seat at the telegraph desk. Tabor was a comparatively small town, and most of the business was on railroad affairs, few local messages being sent or received. After he had reported the 9:10 down train there was little to be done for more than an hour, and he busied his brain devising some means for overcoming his rival.

He and Dorothy had been lovers almost since childhood, and to lose her to a city man seemed doubly hard.

He was awakened from his reverie by the appearance of the janitor of the bank, who deposted on the ledge a coin and a yellow telegraph blank.

"Mr. Spencer says to send that at once, please," this as Gerald mechanically counted the words. The latter's heart throbbed with sudden fierce satisfaction, for the message read:

William W. Birdsall, Bank Examiner, Albany, N. Y.:

Can you come up at once? Paxton has gone wrong. —Almon P. Spencer.

For more than two hours Gerald went through his work automatically. A delirious joy filled his heart at the thought that his rival was driven from the field. The revulsion came at 1 o'clock with the return message:

Almon P. Spencer, Tabor, N. Y.:

I suspected as much. Will be up to-night. —William W. Birdsall.

He sent the message up to the bank by one of the boys, but not with the satisfaction he felt when he received the first message. After all, Paxton, in spite of the fact that he was his rival, was a pleasant fellow, with a kindly word for all. It would be a terrible thing to be arrested for such a betrayal of trust.

The rules of the Western Union are strict on the matter of giving out information relative to dispatches, and the thought that such a revelation would mean the sacrifice of his position deterred him for a while. But in the end sympathy for his discomfited rival proved too strong.

There was a train to New York at 5. The up train from Albany did not get in till 8.

The station agent was familiar with Hastings' duties and readily consented to take care of the office till he came back. He went to the bank and straight to the cashier's window, behind which stood Paxton, getting ready to close the office for the day.

"Come out here a moment," said Gerald hoarsely. "I want to say something."

Wonderingly Paxton followed him to the front of the lobby.

"It's costing me my job," said Gerald, "and I've no particular reason for feeling grateful to you, but you ought to know about these two telegrams." And with trembling hands he unfolded copies of the dispatches.

Paxton laughed, and then his face softened.

"It's awful good of you, old chap," he said, "but I know about those messages. The fact is I'm engaged to Judge Birdsall's ward, and Mr. Spencer as my guardian is to formally announce it to-night. It's been an open secret, but I was waiting until her eighteenth birthday, which is to-day, and that's why those joking telegrams were sent. And, by the way, if you're going to see Miss Dorothy to-night, if you'll forgive the impertinence, you might tell her that your prospects are very materially improved, for I understand that you are slated for the position I am about to give up. I go to New York."

Dorothy said "I told you so," but her father said "Yes."

Daily New York Letter

Mina Is Unmasked.

Feb. 6.—Mina Gottschalk has long been a familiar figure in the Wall street district. For years she has peddled matches among the bankers and brokers of her race, her 70 years and bent form, covered with ragged shawls, eliciting ready sympathy. Her home has been a squalid attic at 57 Attorney street, which several cats, a dog and a parrot shared. When not in Wall street she walked the streets, picking up coal and wood. Her neighbors, poor themselves, offered her food and help, but she always repulsed them, and finally they let her alone. There was a fire in her home while she was out picking wood this morning. It is supposed that the cats and the dog had a fight and overturned a lighted lamp. The fire was still burning when the old woman returned.

"My money!" she cried; "I want it! It's in a corner where the rats can't get at it, but the fire will burn it."

The firemen had to hold her to keep her out of the burning house. In her excitement she pulled the shawl from her head and two big diamonds sparkled in her ears.

"They're fine diamonds," said a policeman.

"Yes, why shouldn't I have diamonds?" said the woman. "I bought them. They're mine. Why shouldn't I wear diamonds and peddle matches and beg. It's my business."

She was happy when she found that the fire hadn't touched her money.

Calls on Payday and Other Days.

Mrs. Chauncey M. Depew calls every afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Grand Central station for her husband. This exhibition of marital devotion is a godsend to scores of women, who have somehow learned of it, and who take advantage of it to study the Parisian gowns of the senator's wife. She drives up to the directors' entrance of the station and enters. In half an hour the door is opened by Senator Depew, who escorts his wife to the carriage door and they both drive away. This regular program never fails to interest a number of women who stand about and watch and get a view of a new hint from Paris each day.

Charity Ball Wanes as a Function.

The chief event of last week socially in New York was the charity ball, and, although it wasn't what it once was, there has been a sort of half-way revival. Interest has waned in this function, but its decadence was bound to come. Society will not hobnob with every Tom, Dick and Harry that happens to have enough money to make a showing. Americans are very pliable and democratic instinctively, but there is a drawing line even for them, and it seems to have been overdrawn in the recent past. Many of the more famous patrons were conspicuous by their absence. Time was when the real grand dames of society would have seen to it that they were in town for what should be the aristocratic gathering of the social year.

Sees Real Whitney Motive.

The report that William Collins Whitney has decided to retire "from business" is a general subject of conversation. Many profess to be incredulous and for many reasons. In the first place, if anyone were asked to say what "business" Mr. Whitney was engaged in it would be rather difficult to answer. By profession Mr. Whitney is a lawyer. He was once corporation counsel of New York and then President Cleveland made him secretary of the navy, and from that time he has been one of the best-known men in this country, to say nothing of England, where his race horses and his love for sport on the turf helped to make him particularly well known. But for many years Mr. Whitney has been deeply interested in politics—he has pulled the political strings on more than one occasion in national, state and municipal politics—and a man who knows him well said to-day that he believed that the announcement of Mr. Whitney's retirement from business at this time was simply preparatory to his going into training for the democratic nomination for the presidency in 1904.

Home Rule in Excise.

Every test of public sentiment in this city on the question of home rule as regards the excise question is on the affirmative side. The newspapers lean that way. Several votes taken at popular assemblies in Cooper Union went that way. And now the Brooklyn Eagle has interviewed 4,055 persons in Brooklyn on the subject, and finds that 2,016 are in favor of partial opening of saloons on Sundays, 1,177