

THE JOURNAL

LUCIAN SWIFE, J. S. McLAIR, MANAGER

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CIRCULATION

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THE JOURNAL leads because nearly all its immense circulation is its 5 o'clock edition, which goes to the homes and is read by all members of the family, and it reaches the great purchasing class as is proved by its advertising columns.

THE BEEF TRUST CASE

The beef packers have met complaints of arbitrary advances in the prices of meats by the claim that prices of live animals had correspondingly advanced.

But that does not go to the merits of the proposition. The conditions just now are peculiar. What the public is largely interested in, and what the president has undertaken to develop in his prosecution of the beef combine, are the practices in operation during ordinary conditions and the conditions which prevail a greater part of the time, and along this line the allegations of the attorney general's application for an injunction are very interesting.

The Cuban flag has been raised over the Havana Morro. As a race that delight in gambling the Cubans are probably making bets already as to how long the flag will stay there.

Other charges are to the effect that the members of the combination refrain from bidding against each other except perfunctorily, thus destroying the element of competition in buying their live material, and that they also conspire to fix prices and to divide territory, to limit the output, impose penalties for violation of this agreement, and keep what is described as a "black-list," in accordance with which any retail dealer delinquent with a member of the combination, no matter whether his delinquency be justified or not, is unable to purchase any supplies from any other member of the combination and is practically driven out of the business.

The government authorities appear to be confident in their ability to establish all these points. Some of them certainly

are well established in the public mind, and some of them have already been supported in other investigations. There seems to be no doubt that the evidence is at hand by which the government may be able to break up this most iniquitous and vicious combination, formed for the purpose of robbing the producer on the one hand and the consumer on the other, by absorbing profits which could not be legitimately acquired were freedom of trade maintained.

In this action against the beef trust, as well as in the actions against railroad combinations, coal combinations, and other forms of offensive trusts organized in the restraint of trade, President Roosevelt is rendering a service of no small importance to the business interests of the country. He is proceeding by legal means to break up that which is rapidly developing in this country a sentiment in favor of much more radical measures than those which the president proposes.

It is not possible for persons here in the quiet and peace and plenty of this mid-continental region to conceive of the awful destruction of life and property wrought by the irresistible forces of volcanic nature in the stricken island of Martinique. The living are even more to be pitied than those who suffered fiery deaths. United States Consul Ayne reports that 50,000 people are homeless and hungry. Our government ought not to be backward in sending assistance to these poor people, who in their prosperity were liberal purchasers of American food-stuffs.

GOVERNMENT CROP ESTIMATES

The regular monthly government report covering winter wheat is due to-day. It will give the condition of the growing crop, which in the report of April 10 was placed at 78.8.

There have always been differences of opinion as to how these government reports should be taken. In the past it has not been unusual to find at times a wide divergence of opinion. One reason has been the contention of a large part of the grain trade that the reports were always too low, and that for their proper interpretation due allowance for this should be made.

Charles B. Murray, secretary of the Cincinnati chamber of commerce and a commercial grain statistician of thirty years' standing, recently addressed Secretary Wilson suggesting that he ask congress to appoint an investigating committee to locate the blame for the difference, and make it plain whether the census department deserves full credence or not.

L. G. Powers, formerly of Minneapolis, now chief statistician for agriculture in the census office, is the man who has had to put the stamp of finality upon the census crop reports. Mr. Powers is not at all averse to an investigation. He makes the very sensible suggestion that should there be an inquiry it be on lines non-political. The statistics of grain are intimately related to the commercial interests of the country, and it would be better, he believes, to have a committee made up of members of the Chicago Board of Trade, Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Louisville Tobacco Exchange and perhaps one or two other influential commercial bodies.

If the matter of investigation comes to a head, Mr. Powers' suggestion should commend itself. And it would seem that since the public has shown disposition to place more reliance in the census figures, with a consequent reflection upon the agricultural department, that that department would court investigation to be placed right in the matter. And it would seem that the government owes it to the great grain and allied interests of the country to make an investigation. No one expects absolute reliability in figures covering a proposition almost infinite in its extent, yet where there is such a hopeless disagreement on a subject so important there is certainly a defect in the system somewhere.

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THE MINERS' STRIKE

The strike of miners in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania, which commences to-day, may be stopped by the sober second thought of the conference which will be held on Wednesday, but while this is earnestly to be desired, there does not seem to be much room for hope.

It would seem that the National Civic Federation's conciliation committee had gone to the extent of its ability trying to bring about an agreement between the miners and their employers. They succeeded in bringing together a joint committee composed of representatives of the miners and operators, the latter being the presidents of the Reading, Lackawanna and Erie railways, and the miners being represented by President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers' union and the presidents of the Union's three districts in the mining region. The railway representatives declined to make any concessions, and, later on, the miners decided upon a strike and agreed to meet at Hazleton, Wednesday, to decide whether it should be permanent or not. The miners want their union recognized, an eight-hour day without reduction of wages, and the weighing of all the coal as it comes from the mines in order that the scale of wages may be based on the minimum of 60 cents per ton.

The Civic Federation has gone to the limit of its ministrations as a peace-

maker. It is to be commended for its earnestness and zeal in its good work. The conciliation committee of the Federation is composed of men conspicuous for their public spirit and ripe judgment. According to the laws of the Federation, the committee is appointed by the chairman of the executive committee and consists of nine members, three of whom shall be selected from each group, and they shall use their good offices in restoring harmonious relations between employers and employed where there is threatened disturbance. If their efforts are ineffective and if the parties to the dispute desire arbitration, the executive committee of the Federation may invite them to select two employers and two wage earners from the executive committee to serve as an arbitration board, and, if these want an umpire, they may select a fifth member from the division of the executive committee representing the public. Thus the machinery for settlement is ready, and very excellent machinery it is. The executive committee of the Federation is composed of an equal number of members representing employers, employees and the general public. The workmen are given every advantage of a just, unprejudiced tribunal, in whose work they share.

The failure of this eminently just body to prevent a strike in the anthracite region is not fatal to its usefulness. It has prevented two or three threatened strikes and the plan under which it works is certain to yield much good fruit in the future. Of course, when employers refuse point blank to make any concessions and stick to it, nothing can be done. They have to stand their share of the sequel.

Under this declaration the ministry has triumphed and has come out strongly upheld by the country. The nationalists looked for a great collapse of the republican party like that which was brought about by the parliamentary elections in 1885, but they have been so worried that it is not likely that there can be again formed such a heterogeneous combination of men as the English actor who has campaigned against the Waldeck-Rousseau ministry.

All business houses whose business is largely made up of small sales, mail, should be strong advocates of the Post check currency system. There is no doubt that thousands of persons who are attracted by advertisements or articles costing small sums of money are deterred from buying on account of the inconvenience of sending the required amount by mail. But when the man who sees the advertisement to put his hand in his pocket to find a check for the required amount there will be no inconvenience and larger total sales.

THE CASE FOR BORAX

There is a wide difference of opinion among German physicians and scientists as to the effect of borax when taken into the human system with food in which it is used as a preservative. The difference seems to be about as pronounced as in the take about the same lines as in the United States. There is a growing conviction here that evidence is being developed that borax is a deleterious other preservative used by meat packers and that it is not to be commended.

At the conference of chemists and meat packers held in Berlin on Saturday Professor Liebrech protested against the law forbidding the use of borax in the preservation of meat and forbidding the importation of meat so preserved. He said that the experts of the Imperial health office had made the mistake of assuming that because borax is injurious when taken in large quantities it is also injurious in the small quantities in which meat eaters receive it in their systems. Dr. Gerlach, Liebrech's opponent, supported Professor Liebrech's contention.

No one objects to common salt as a preservative, yet it is well known that an excess of salt is very injurious to health. Is it not quite possible that borax, in the quantities required in the preservation of meat, is an innocuous as a small amount of salt? As to the effect of the preservative on the meat it is maintained that salt unites meat for digestion and that borax does not.

The Journal has in past discussions included borax with certain other chemicals used in the preservation of meat as being harmful and in effect poisonous. But it must be admitted that evidence is accumulating that borax is not objectionable. That point will be legally determined for Minnesota by the decision of the supreme court in a case now pending.

Borax is the only preservative involved in this case. The defendants maintain that its use is unobjectionable, and that it is not harmful to health. They have adduced much expert testimony to that effect.

If borax is really harmless it is desirable that the fact should be plainly established as soon as possible. It is a powerful preservative, and upon the length of time which meat can be preserved depends in considerable degree its price.

Representative Underwood of Alabama, by his untimely objection to the appropriation of \$100,000 for the relief of the survivors of the terrible calamity in Martinique, has succeeded in depriving the appropriation of some of that quality of impulsive generosity which means so much at such a time.

THE REBALLOTTING IN FRANCE

Yesterday the rebalotting in France resulted in a considerable alteration of the majority of the Waldeck-Rousseau ministry, and it is likely that the premier will be able to point to a majority of about 100 in the chamber of deputies. At the close of the parliamentary elections on April 27, there were some 160 districts where the candidates did not receive an absolute majority of the votes cast and, in these, rebalotting or ballottage, as the French call the second ballot, is necessary two weeks after the regular election, and in these cases a plurality elects.

It appears that the rebalotting yesterday, made absolutely sure the utter wiping out in Algeria of the Drumont anti-Semitic propaganda, the Jew-baiting combination which raged in Paris during the Dreyfus excitement and sought, indeed, to plunge all France in confusion. The Drumont agitation was a disgrace to France, not an in conception and methods. An anti-ministerialist was elected in Algeria.

minister of commerce, who had to stand a second ballot in an arrondissement in the department of the Seine, was re-elected yesterday. It was predicted at the outset of the career of the Waldeck-Rousseau ministry that Millerand, being a socialist (not of the revolutionary socialist group, however), the cabinet would be weakened and would be voted out of office as inimical to safe government in France. On the contrary, the presence of a socialist or collectivist minister in the cabinet gave the government the support of that whole element, while the extreme anarchistic group headed by themselves. Millerand, indeed, was one of the strong features of the premier's astute program. His combination of advanced republicans and all the socialist groups, except the intransigent element, enabled him, with his mastery directing force, to bring France through the perilous controversy over the question of revising the Dreyfus judgment without antagonizing and embittering the army and removing the possibility of a military coup.

The Waldeck-Rousseau ministry has very closely followed the declaration which it made on June 26, 1899, when it announced its policy, which was approved in the senate by a vote of 187 to 25 and in the chamber of deputies by a vote of 263 to 237. That sustaining vote in the chamber has been trebled. The key note of the ministerial declaration was the pacification of the country, the maintenance intact of the common country, the effacement of existing delusions, the cooperation of all republicans, to end all agitations against the regime which has been sanctioned and will be upheld by universal suffrage.

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Barnum & Bailey must be right "next" to the French newspaper men. It would be pretty hard for them to get a story on the wires in this country about a people fighting for admission to the show.

LODGE'S CENTER SHOT

Because one object of the Philippines legislation proposed by the republicans is to assist in the commercial development of the Philippines the democrats have charged that it was intended to open the islands to exploiters, syndicates and carpet-baggers, in his speech last Monday, Senator Lodge said that if it were a crime to make money it would have to be admitted that the bill was objectionable, since it undoubtedly creates opportunities for men to enter the islands and make money. "I am aware," he ironically added, "after many years of experience of the hostility of the democratic party to any man who has made money, or to any man making money, and it was that one of their principles, the only one, which was carried out with complete success during their last tenure of power. For if the Americans at that time made money..."

If not reasonable the democrats are at least consistent in opposing legislation that will make it possible to develop the commerce and industries of the Philippines.

The proposition to extend the limits of Yellowstone national park to such an extent as nearly to double the area of the park should be enacted into law without delay. The area of the park is now 3,313 square miles, and the proposed additions comprise 2,254 square miles. With the exception of a small piece that is desired on the northwest corner of the park in Montana, and a still smaller piece to be taken from Idaho, all of the required land, both on the south and east, lies in Wyoming. Fortunately, all except the Montana piece is within forest reservations, so that with the exceptions of a few claims, the government has the title to the land. Moreover, the organic act of Wyoming reserved the right of the federal government to enlarge Yellowstone park, so that there will be no question of conflict of state and national sovereignty. The strips of land required are those to which the game protected in the park drifts, at certain seasons of the year, and is killed in great numbers by poachers, who pay no respect to state game laws. It is asserted that unless the limits of the park are extended to enclose these feeding grounds it is only a question of a few years when the park will no longer have buffalo, elk or moose.

The Egyptian government has just purchased 15,000 tons of American coal. The purchase has caused a sensation among English coal men and much surprise is expressed that the government should have bought American instead of British coal. In this fact is to be seen one of the reasons why Americans are not often much alarmed by the extension of the British empire. So far there has been free competition in pretty much every part of the empire—more in that directly ruled from London than in the self-governing colonies. Even governmental departments have gone on the principle of buying in the cheapest and best markets, regardless of the promptings of patriotism.

The Washington correspondents are already announcing the results of next fall's congressional elections. Now if we didn't have to go through the turmoil of a campaign and election just the same, how valuable would be this work.

THE BEEF TRUST HUNTER

"Hang the trust!" the warrior roared; "He is a famous leader, and he is the Aldermanic board. The champion 'B'F' pleader.

"'B'F' death!" he yelled, with wild adjure "A-hungered and hapless poor—No wonder they go burgling!"

"We'll buy no beef-of that be sure—Nor steak, nor o'en a ramp roast; We'll starve the trust that starves the poor, And hang 'em to a lamp-post!"

Homeward then the warrior hied, And sat him down to dinner; "Bring me meat!" he softly sighed—'Twas beef, as 't'm a sinner!

The Nonpareil Man

Casually Observed.

This is the kind of weather that makes the back yard farmer think of moving to Athol, about eight miles north and west of Manitoba.

Mansfield is all right, but give us the kind of show where the house falls down on the low comedian who gets hit with a flat if he steps out of doors or the palmer drops the point on him. Then the gallery arises to the occasion and you get your money's worth.

A bright, cheery optimist at Marshalltown, Iowa, is a good specimen of a man. No one has ever become rich yet starting prohibition organs, though there may be some excitement in it.

The president shows some excusable curiosity to find who fixes the price of coal. From the barons will deny that it is fixed and plead that, if it is fixed, it is done in the interests of the public.

Fat boys who want to butt in on the curio collectors and are severely worked in London by the bric-a-brac game. This is the first cousin of the old book game. The dealer drags out an old suspender used by King Henry VIII, with the king's crest on it, and a certificate from Cardinal Wolsey that it was used by the king alone, and soaks the innocent purchaser for \$7,225 per year. After that you own the cuspidor and the dealer owns the money. It's great!

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

A large audience greeted the first performance of the vaudeville company at the Metropolitan last night, and was generous in its praise of the new show. Law Hawkins, Mallory brothers and Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Barry made the hits of the evening, and were favored with numerous encores. The show will run for the entire week, with daily matinees.

A great deal of interest has been aroused by the announcement of the engagement of E. S. Willard at the Metropolitan for three nights and matinee, commencing Thursday, May 22, at the Metropolitan. The English actor has not appeared in Minneapolis for a number of years and has never been seen on the stage of the Metropolitan. He will present his new play, "The Bard," and will also be seen in Dickens' "Tom Pinch" and "The Professor's Love Story."

"Not Guilty," a thrilling melodrama, opened to large business at the Bijou yesterday. It will be reviewed in this column to-morrow.

"Inch of Tennessee," a melodrama of the south, will be the attraction at the Bijou coming week. The piece treats of a people rustic and simple, and "moonshiners," and who, to each other, are true as steel. The play is described as being replete with startling climaxes, without the pistol-shooting and bloodshed which are so common to so many plays of this order. The producing company is promised to be capable in every way.

A BIT OF LOCAL BOOKMAKING

The book entitled "Poems," by Arthur Upson and George Norton Northrop, published by E. W. Brooks and printed by Hahn & Harmon, both of this city, is now offered for sale, and a copy has come to hand for review. The volume is a fine bit of book making, and is a very pleasant to the eye and touch of a book lover. The title page contains a vignette by Alex. Fourneyron, dated Paris, 1901. A limited edition of 500 copies has been printed from the types, of which the larger part have already been taken by subscribers. The book is bound in cloth, and is priced at \$1.00.

Arthur Upson, by his former volume of poems, "At the Sign of the Cross," has already won a wide reputation, and is likely to extend as his work becomes better known. In these poems Mr. Northrop, also of the state university, makes his first bow to the public. The work of both writers is original and in tune with nature. From a popular standpoint, the criticism of the verse would be that it is too classical—more in the style of the poets of the past. For this reason it is not likely to have the sturdy following that the human note brings out. To this rather chilly criticism, perhaps the best answer is that the authors are not harshly meant—it will be a few quotations to show the real excellent qualities of the verse. Thus Mr. Upson:

I have haunted halls enchanted, Halls with tapestries resplendent, And high dreams of painting poets, For my king, my queen, my king; And I've gazed when day-death glory In historic mountain places, Caught and caught in clouds of autumn Into gorgeous curtains.

And again, speaking of "B" well and his mighty friend when the poet invites his bookshelf to tea, he says:

But, ere I invite thee down, With thy butter production exceeds 50,000,000 pounds. It is of exceptionally fine quality and is valued at nearly \$1,000,000 a year.

The Minnesota dairy product increased more than 125 per cent.

\$4,000,000 is invested in the creameries of Minnesota, and supply products to the value of \$8,000,000, to say nothing of the small dairies scattered throughout the state which send an immense amount of butter to market. It is estimated that the total revenue of the Minnesota creameries will be increased more than \$1,000,000 this year.

The people of that state are remarkably thrifty and know how to make their labor and enterprise pay.

CABLE FLASHES

Rome—Thirteen persons were killed in a landslide at the foot of Mount Etna.

Panama, Colombia—News has come from Costa Rica that the military element in the neighborhood of San Jose, the capital, is in insurrection.

London—At the coronation, the queen is to wear the Kohinoor. An immense suite of Westminister Abbey is being built to accommodate spectators.

Rome—The report is confirmed that Rt. Rev. Sebastian Messias, bishop of Greco Bay, Wis., will be proclaimed archbishop of Manila at the approaching consistory.

Manila—Another case of cholera has occurred on board the United States army transport Warren. The ship and her passengers will be detained in quarantine for an additional five days.

Vienna—The Archduchess Maria Christine, daughter of Archduke Frederick, and Prince Emmanuel Salm-Salm, nephew of the head of that house, were married Saturday. The bride fully renounced all claims to the Austrian succession.

Paris—Paris yesterday elected nineteen ministerial and nine anti-ministerial, the latter gaining three seats in the chamber. The reports indicate that the rebalotting was favorable to the government, as had the ministerialists, including M. Leygues, the minister of public instruction, M. Brisson and Jules Siegfried, former minister of commerce, were elected.

Port of Spain, Island of Trinidad—Venezuelan government troops, under General Vicente Gomez, attacked Curupano, state of Maricao, yesterday morning, and after a battle of several hours, the government forces were defeated and obliged to abandon the place, leaving 15 men dead and 20 wounded. The city suffered terribly from the shelling.

TIME AND TIMEPIECES

BY EPES W. SARGENT

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Ellerley wound up the clock and set it by his watch. Then, with an impatient movement, he put it back in its place on the desk. Somehow it jarred upon him this evening. It was so big and bright, so assertive in its ticking, that he felt tempted to set it in the bedroom, out of sight and hearing.

That it was a present from Marie only served to increase his dislike to-night. He lit his pipe and sat down to write, but, instead of words, the incessant tick-tock surged through his brain. Finally he leaned back in his chair and glanced at the offending timepiece.

How like Marie it was, he thought, all glitter and gold and a loud voice, and an inclination to be a trifle fast that got him out of

bed ten minutes sooner than he wanted to waken and shake the belated homecoming more scandalous by a quarter of an hour. He could no more regulate it than he could Marie.

She had proposed it, he remembered, the night he had given his chafing-dish supper to some of her associates at the Metropolitan theater. It was when she had been with her and had joined in her laugh of scorn for the little china clock that he knew so well. When she had announced her intention of getting a better one, he had pressed her hand and assured her that he would keep it always.

And now—well, Marie had told him she was going to marry Jenks, who was forty, bald and wealthy. He had never liked Jenks, but he began to feel sorry for him. He was good-hearted, while Marie—his eyes were opened to the pretty face of the Metropolitan ingenue.

When his first book had brought success, Your figures make the chances of a college graduate as four to three against a non-collegiate for a seat in the house of representatives, and two to one for a seat in the senate, which is something of an argument in favor of a college education for political aspirants. But, if I am not seriously in error, the more correct ratio would be forty to three for the house, and twenty to one for the senate in favor of college graduates.

Brownston, April 3.

A GOOD REPUTATION

Atlanta Journal.

Many states have nicknames, some of them complimentary and others rather the reverse. Minnesota has long been known as "the bread and butter state," which is a very honorable distinction. Minnesota not only produces all the wheat her people can consume and makes it up into flour which is famous the world over and is exported to all parts of the civilized world, but Minnesota furnishes the butter for her own bread and has a vast quantity of butter for sale.

The people of that state are remarkably thrifty and know how to make their labor and enterprise pay.

Chicago—Loud complaint of the cold wave is made.

Terre Haute, Ind.—May Irwin is suffering from nervous prostration.

Omaha—Pat Crowe, the abductor, has bobbed up in a newspaper interview.

New York—Preparations are being made for the dedication of the new Senator Roach of North Dakota passed a comfortable Sunday and has slightly improved. Mr. Roach is expected to leave for his home in a few days.

Cincinnati—In the United States court Mrs. Tillie M. Walker of Philadelphia has petitioned for a receiver of Oxford college at Oxford, Ohio. The defendants are directors of the institution.

San Francisco—The Alaska Commercial Company has received from the state of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, a letter dated April 10, giving information of volcanic disturbances and urged local vigilance.

Chicago—Mrs. Abby Perkins Cheney has filed suit for divorce in the circuit court next of the \$100,000. J. M. C. A. building erected by Miss Helen Gould. Ex-Secretary of the Willingdon Hotel has an address: Miss Gould will also speak.

Unalaska, Aleutian Islands—Unalaska has been shaken up by earthquakes lately and several occasions the ground was covered with fine ashes from some volcano. Reports from Unalaska and the village of Billings show their village is covered with some kind of ash, indicating that some western volcano is in action.

Hackensack, N. J.—Rev. Alex. Walters, D. D., bishop of the African M. E. church for New Jersey, Missouri, Virginia, Michigan and Canada, was arrested and placed under \$500 bail on a charge of assault. The warrant was issued on affidavits of Miss Sadie Billings, aged 23. The allegation is that Bishop Walters made improper advances. He denies it.

Rumfluffy Acts and Speeches.

Whatcom Revellie.

There are several varieties of rumfluffs to be found in the United States. Money and McLaughlin fought with fists and Money charged on an adversary with a knife. Carmack distinguished himself by advocating in language fit only for the month of the blustering, swaggering brawler the hanging of little Funston. The general's crime was that he obeyed a call to duty, as a soldier should. He did his duty honorably and well. He listened to the slurs of creatures like Carmack and answered them as their kind deserved. He may have been indiscreet in having done so, probably had no right to do so, but that fact will not wipe out the shame certain rumfluffy acts and rumfluffy speeches have brought upon what by tradition is the most dignified legislative body in the world. Time will bring traditions that to recall will compel a blush.

Apology Should Be Demanded.

It would appear from details coming from Italy that the looking up of American naval officers was not nearly so justifiable as some of the earlier reports made out. Instead of being grateful for the royal courtesy, French reports say an apology ought to be demanded. It takes some time to filter through, but in the long run truth, like murder, will out.

They're Two Syllables Shy.

Pierce are the natives of Samar, Far wider than the Sioux—They love to swing their boloknives, Religion never reaches them, To change their sinful plans, They're not what you could call a race Of good Samaritans!—Chicago Journal.

Quite Naturally.

That dog barks the loudest, 'Twas his name is Travy.

Indignant Journal.

That dog barks the loudest, 'Twas his name is Travy.

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That dog barks the loudest, 'Twas his name is Travy.

Indignant Journal.

had met Marie. She had managed to love her idealized portrait. The story had been an even greater success than the first, and the Metropolitan manager had declared that the advertising was worth thousands. That disgusted him.

Marie did not figure in his last story, which had just appeared, and in a pique she had announced her engagement to Jenks.

On the morning, he told himself, he would send it back to her. The old clock should have its place again, and that—before he had meant to give it to the janitor, but something had stayed his hand.

All there it was behind the tobacco jar! It was a cheap thing, but it had been regarded as quite a marvel of elegance.

He remembered how his patient, overworked mother, had proudly brought it back from Keesport. His father had looked back with disapproval, but she had bought it with her "egg and butter" money, and her right to waste this fund in seeming extravagance was never questioned.

That was when he was 15 and first enjoyed the dignity of having his own little room up under the lichen-covered shingles. The clock gave the finishing touch, and with what an air of importance had he found it up the first night! Why, he was quite a man!

That was what she had meant when she came to tuck him into bed. Poor, gentle mother! For ten years she had lain there in the cemetery overlooking Lake Champlain. Could she see him now, he wondered, with his luxurious apartments and comfortable bank account?

Somewhat the smokes from his pipe would persist in getting into his eyes this evening and making them water.

He knocked the ashes out, and as the condensation started in the heel of his pipe it seemed to him that that—before the crackling in the spider. Somehow to-night everything reminded him of the old white farmhouse in the east.

Impatiently he brushed his sleeve across his eyes, but his face softened again as he wound up the old timepiece. It was not handsome, but it would seem to bear its quick ticking once more. So he set it where the other had stood for the past months. Then he carried Marie's gift back into the dining-room.

When he came back, the room had already taken on a more homelike aspect. He could almost fancy that the clock was flanked by the china dog which had once been the dearest of his possessions and the couch shell brought from the West Indies by Uncle Jim. There, too, had stood Nestlé's photograph. How long ago that was! How long ago came to the city to win fame and fortune and heartaches!

Yet he still remembered Nell's tender, wistful eyes. She was worth a dozen pictures. He had been a fool to sacrifice all the home ties to the empty fame and friendship that were now his.

So he sat and smoked and waded bitterly. Never had he felt so utterly alone. Only the ticking of the little clock comforted him. Finally he read his message.

There was a note pinned to his face as he drew a sheet of paper toward him and