THE JOURNAL

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MINNESOTA WAY VS. MR. HILL'S WAY

As well attempt to set a broken limb by statutes as to adjust rates. You can legislate until the barn doors rot off. The best thing you can do is to act as you have here with the officials.

Those were the words President J. J. Hill of the Great Northern used in addressing the farmers of the Washington Big Bend country last week. Inasmuch as there is a strong agitation in Washington for the establishment of a railway commission Mr. Hill's remarks may be taken as a general protest against any form of state interference with private railway management. If the farmers and other patrons of railways, Mr. Hill holds, will only be courteous and obsequious and ask for changes in rates in a truly proper and respectful manner, not forgetting the due number of bows and "pleases," they will get better results than when they invoke the power of the state.

This is a very nice theory and as Mr. Hill followed up its promulgation with some very important grain rate concessions many of his auditors took it for granted that the last word on this subject had been spoken. But for the other side and a very different side, too, let them read the history of Minnesota. Prior to the creation of the railway and warehouse commission in this state in 1887 the railways were the masters. Since then the people have been the masters. Important rate reductions, strongly opposed by the railway companies have been brought about in several instances, and the railways have been compelled through legislative enactments and the orders of the commission to make innumerable changes in their equipment and method of operation for the benefit of the public.

Some of these changes might have been voluntarily granted, but judging from the great trouble the commission has had, with all the power of the state back of it, to effect some of them, it is safe to say that the people would have freely received little more than the rigid application of the rule of "all the traffic will bear" would have permitted them. It is true that the railways have made rate reductions without positive orders from the commission, but the most important have come from negotiations begun by the commission backed by the power to order what was not amicably granted.

The railway laws of Minnesota, precedents created by the acts of the commission and judicial support of the laws and the commission have now made the Minnesota railway commission, as the agent of the people and the state, supreme over railway managers. It can and does regulate rates and enforce convenient and efficient service, subject only to the judicial determination of the reasonableness of its acts.

One of the great rate reductions gained to the people of the state grew out of what is known as the Steenerson case. The commission made a sweeping order reducing grain rates from the Red River valley to Minneapolis and Duluth about 12 per cent. The railroads fought the order to the end, but the supreme court decided that the commission had power to make general rates and that the particular rates established by its order were not confiscatory and were, therefore, lawful.

It has now been definitely admitted by the courts that rates established by the railway commission are prima facie reasonable, and that the burden of proof that they are not rests upon the railway commission. This has become a powerful lever in obtaining justice from the railways without litigation, because they know that it is impossible to prove that a rate established after investigation by a fair commission is unreasonable.

Had it not been for the railway lawsand commission, the railways of this state would, whenever it pleased them, refuse to interchange traffic at crossings, thus compelling shippers to use two sides of a triangle.. The absolute power of the state to compel such interchange has been established by the Hanley Falls "Y" case which has been to the supreme court of the United States. The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway company, which fought this case, had no object in view except compelling its patrons to use the full length of one of its lines instead of giving them the privilege of diverting their shipments at Hanley Falls to the Great Northern The "Y" has been built and traffic is interchanged. Other "Y's" have been built, and will be built, in consequence of this decision. Here the law has given the shipper the right to demand the shortest route to his destination, even if that deprives the original railway line of a long haul.

There is every reason to believe that this inequitable and vexatious practice would have been kept up indefinitely had it not been for the law and the commission. Shippers could have begged for the concession on their hands and knees for years, and they would have got nothing.

The Minnesota commission can compel railways to grant reasonable joint rates. As their selfish interests would at times conflict with such a practice, it is unreasonable to expect that they would always grants them. This authority and the acts of the commission under it have been upheld by the United States supreme court in the New Ulm coal rate case. This decision also empowers the state commission to reduce rates on given articles even below what would be a reasonable point for that article alone, provided the railway is earning a fair profit on its entire business. This is a point that contributes much to public convenience and comfort. It is one more step in making the railways serve the public as well as the stockholders. In this same decision the authority of the highest court in the land was given to the rule that the presumption is that any order made by the commission is reasonable. This decision practically gives the commission not only the power to alter existing joint rates, but to make new ones.

In 1900 the railways of southwestern Minnesota, at the instance of the commission, reduced flax and grain rates to Minneapolis and Duluth to such an extent that it is estimated that $400,000 was saved to the farmers. The companies had repeatedly declared that reductions were impossible, but when the commission got down to business the companies granted liberal concessions without resort to law.

In the same year, through the pressure of the commission, terminal rates were granted to many interior towns of the state. These rates were a great help to those towns. The northern lines have now withdrawn them and the case is in court.

In a multitude of smaller matters and details the Minnesota laws and commission have helped and protected the shipper, and yet have done the roads no wrong. Stations, depots, sidetracks, loading platforms, sites for warehouses, fencing right-of-way, equal and impartial distribution of cars between shippers, etc., are some of the items in which the authority of the state has provided what would often have been refused to the individual or groups of petitioners following Mr. Hill's advice.

That advice is all right if the railways are "good." In Minnesota the laws and the enforcement thereof make and keep them "good," so that the railways frequently grant accommodations without recourse to the law and the commission.

If all small boys who behave decorously when rich men are around should be rewarded with $2,100, as was Frank Prevost of Toledo, Ohio, the standard of juvenile behavior would be wonderfully raised.

THE VOTER AND HIS DUTY

The primary election law of Minnesota was adopted for a definite purpose and to accomplish a much desired end. The people of this state are given the opportunity to vote directly their choice of candidates in order that the real preference of the voter may find expression in the result.

The voter has complained heretofore that nominations were largely the result of barter and manipulation, and sometimes of trickery and fraud. He has complained that owing to the industry and skill of the professional politician he has been able to exert little, if any, influence upon the choice of candidates, but has often found himself on election day committed to the choice of two evils. Whether the voter has had just cause of complaint or not he has been clamoring about this matter for years, and has been making his belief that he had little or no opportunity to shape political results the excuse for his failure to make the attempt.

Our primary law, providing for the exercise of the right of direct nomination, and giving to each voter as much power to select candidates as is possessed by any other voter, is the answer to this clamor. The industrious and designing politician has no more opportunity or power to determine the choice of candidates than anybody else who thinks enough of his political privileges to exercise the right of suffrage.

So, it is now up to the voter to make a wise choice of candidates. It is his duty to inform himself as to the merits of rival candidates and be governed by qualification and character in his selection. There is no longer any excuse for failure to vote for the best man, and nothing but rigid adherence to that rule will justify all the cumbersome machinery that has been set up for the purpohe of effecting direct nominations. If the voter is to be actuated by any other considerations than those indicated—qualification and character—then the cheaper and, perhaps, in some respects, the better method of convention nominations might as well be restored. If the people of Hennepin county, for example, are not now to nominate men solely with reference to their fitness and character there is no excuse for the expenditure of $25,000 to $30,000 to give them the opportunity of which they refuse to avail themselves.

The task of ascertaining the qualification of candidates is not so difficult that it cannot be conscientiously and satisfactorily accomplished by every intelligent voter. Candidates for places on the general ticket become conspicuous by reason of their necessary activity in a general campaign. There can, for instance, be no excuse for ignorance as to the character and qualifications of the candidates for the congressional or county offices. And in the minor divisions the candidates, while possibly less conspicuous, often come more closely in contact with the voters in their respective districts, and being residents of the same neighborhood may be easily known and studied by the intelligent and conscientious voter.

But not only does our new primary system impose upon the voter the heavy moral responsibility of casting a conscientious vote for the candidate of the highest character and qualification, but it assumes that he will not prematurely commit himself or allow himself to be bound by an accommodating or unwise yielding to the first solicitation of support. While there necessarily must be organization and partizans on the side of different candidates under any system of nomination, the position of the average voter is not far different from that of a juror. The complainant and the defendant have their attorneys, and the candidate has his partizans. The juror will not make up his mind upon the opening address of counsel on the one side or the other, and the conscientious voter will make sure of the qualifications and character of the various candidates before committing himself to any one of them.

And yet, we daily hear men say: "Well, I admit Mr. B. is a better man for the office than Mr. A., but Mr. A. asked me to vote for him some time ago and I agreed to do so, although I confess that I would like to see Mr. A. nominated." The voter who makes an admission of that sort ought to be, and generally is, ashamed of it. Hasty pledges of support which are afterward not supported by the approval of a conscientious judgment, should be withdrawn.

The Journal is prompted to these remarks by the conviction that our system of direct nominations is on trial, and that unless the great masses of the people, in whose behalf this system is supposed to have been inaugurated, display an ability and a disposition to exercise the privilege which it confers intelligently and conscientiously, it will be exceedingly difficult for the friends of the system to defend it against the charges which will be brought against it upon the grounds of results and expense.

The appointment of former Chief Doyle as chief of detectives will meet with favor. We have confidence in Mr. Doyle's integrity and in his detective skill. His long professional experience and knowledge of criminals and their ways will admirably supplement the advantages Chief Waite brings to the service as a new man in no way affected by harmful local police traditions or relations.

THE COURSE OF BUSINESS

The country is now up to the period of the year when the question of the money supply is more important than at any other time. Changes in monetary conditions in the great financial centers are being watched with increasing interest, with an interest that comes from a feeling confident yet not wholly unmixed with apprehension of possible adverse development. It is certain that the country needs more money to do its business this year than ever before, and ever since it became evident that the west would be blessed with bountiful crops, there has been speculation as to the probability of a money stringency late in the fall. A tightening of the New York money market and a moderate advance in call rates in New York on Friday of this week increased the general apprehension.

As a matter of fact, however, there has rarely been a year when the money situation in the west at this time has been so good as at present. The total amount of money in circulation is $2,260,606,137, an increase of $71,038,988 over last year. There are 4,535 national banks now in the country compared with 4,165 on Aug. 15, 1901; and the statements on last examiner's call show a majority of these banks in betetr condition as regards loaning ability than at the beginning of the crop movement last year. The banks of the middle west and northwest have no less than $128,678,000 on deposit with reserve agencies in New York. Money is easy abroad, and while an occasional flurry may run up rates on our side, there is every reason to expect only temporary advances with an easy market and low rates as the rule.

The credit of the west has never been so good. And this credit based upon confidence is really more important than any other consideration. The financial situation, on the whole, is sound, justifying everything of legitimate business expansion, yet not such as to warrant reckless speculation.

Many favorable features are noted in trade, especially in the jobbing lines, where the fall buying is being felt with increasing force. In dry goods, shoes, hardware and other lines, material gains were made over last week in the volume of business. Structural iron is still being turned out under great pressure, and the curtailment of pig iron production remains a handicap.

The coal strike has reached the stage where the question of supplies for next winter is becoming paramount and there is a growing feeling that this long-drawn-out controversy should be forced to a settlement in some way, it having been suggested that as a final resort the government should interpose.

The grain markets were firmer and advances were the rule, wheat gaining about 2 cents from recent low points. Wet weather and fear of a lowering in the quality of the wheat has been strengthening, this helped in some degree by somewhat smaller estimates of the northwestern crop yield, than was generally expected.

The stock market continues to run counter to the views of the ultra conservatives, and despite a money situation unfavorable to any advance, considerable strength has developed at times in leading specialties. The most influential houses in Wall street are said to believe in the maintenance of prices close to the present level for a time with the chances in favor of a bull market later in the fall.

Page Morris will not reconsider his determination not to run for congress. This leaves Judge Edson free to continue to apply his peculiar ideas of political advertising.

"MODERN FEUDALISM."

In the early seventies, during the first outburst of anti-railroad feeling in Minnesota, and when many of the western states were putting granger railway laws on their statute books, the late Cushman K. Davis made a speech which started him on his great career. Its subject was "Modern Feudalism." The railway owners were the barons, said Mr. Davis, the people were the vassals. The oration proved immensely popular. The legislature ordered a large edition of it printed and Mr. Davis delivered it many times. For years Minnesota men could not hear Cushman K. Davis' name mentioned without thinking of "Modern Feudalism."

As the years went by and Mr. Davis became Senator Davis and a highly esteemed corporation lawyer with intimate connections with the railway barons he had clamored against in his youth, his views underwent decided changes. He had found that, after all, the railway baron when you come to know him, eat at his table, travel in his private car, belong to his club, profit by his tips, be counted among his familiars, is not such a bad fellow. So the senator came to look back upon the purple writing of "Modern Feudalism" much as the man of mature years looks back in a sort of shame upon his sophomore or graduation orations. He gathered up and destroyed every copy of the oration he could find even, it is thought, the copy kept in the archives of the state historical society.

Yet within a few years many serious minds have taken up the line of thought followed in the flashy oration of Senator Davis' youth, and had the senator lived a few years longer he might have been rather proud of the production of his tender and verdant years as a prophetic utterance. The multiplication of trusts, the strengthening of their powers, the growing number and exclusiveness of the extremely rich, the growing dependence of the employes and producers of the country upon these fortunate ones, the continual restriction of economic independence and the elimination of competition, have led to the suggestion that we are rapidly driving into a new kind of feudalism, the basis of which will be capital instead of land, the serfage of which will be attachment to a job or a livelihood instead of the baronial estate.

The thought that has ben in the minds of many who have considered the enconomic tendencies of the times, has been put into concise and even brilliant form by W. J. Ghent, in an article which appeared in the Independent, April 3. At that time the editor predicted that sooner or later, in some form or other, every reading man in the United States would become familiar with Mr. Ghent's views. The prediction is in a fair way to be realized, for the article has called forth a vast amount of comment and has been answered by Professor J. B. Clark.

Mr. Ghent says we are drifting into a benevolent feudalism in which the very rich will be the barons but will be kind, thoughtful, humane barons; though the fact will remain that power resides with them and all that is best in life will be kept for them and the upper classes of the feudal society they will organize around themselves. The outward form and some of the strength of the democracy will be retained, but the barons by their great power and wealth will control all its workings. The governors, legislatures, presidents and judges will all be theirs. The masses will be more intent upon keeping their jobs than anything else and will be passive while the barons rob them of their birthrights. Mr. Ghent says that by collective assertion of their power the people could nip this benevolent feudalism in the bud, but he is sure that they will not assert themselves.

Professor Clark replies that the tendency is toward monopoly rather than feudalism and that the great trust leaders and their hordes of followers, admirers and employes are more like robber bands than feudal systems. But the tendency is about as bad whatever the name be given to it. Whether monopoly or benevolent feudalism is threatened the outlook is one to cause the people to be-stir themselves. Professor Clark thinks that wise legislation can utilize consolidations and yet clip the wings of their dangerous power. Of one thing he is confident: strong and intelligent democracy will never submit to domination by barons or monopolies.

We like this view. We do not believe that such an intelligent and liberty loving people as the American will be content to see their political liberty overshadowed and made a hollow mockery by economic slavery. If the laws can not reach trusts and their power grows and becomes yet more arrogant the people will assert themselves by physical force. But that dread alternative will never be reached. Democracy will solve the problem of capital and trusts, and in the end there will be freer competition and more equality of opportunity than ever.

IN A NUTSHELL.....

The South Carolina Liquor Dispensary System

A reader of The Journal asks: "Will you kindly inform your readers how the liquor dispensary called the Gothenburg system in the state of South Carolina was brought about. I am informed that since it became operative four years ago the sale of intoxicants has decreased 75 per cent. Was it brought about through the medium of either of the two great political parties? Any information you can give on this important subject will be appreciated by your subscriber and many others."

In South Carolina, as in many other southern states, there had grown up a very strong prohibition sentiment, both in and out of the dominant democratic party. In 1892 a prohibition bill was introduced into the legislature with strong support. As a compromise the Gothenburg state dispensary system was substituted and adopted. The law has now been in force about ten years, instead of four, as our correspondent assumes. But it was so violently opposed at first, so much disorder resulted from its enforcement and it was so unpopular with the prohibitionists as well as the liquor dealers, and the constitutionality of the law being questioned, that it was not until 1897 that it began to receive a fair trial. In that year the supreme court of the United States upheld the law in every particular except that portion of it interfering with the right of individuals to import liquor from other states for their private consumption.

Inasmuch as the legislature that passed the law was overwhelmingly democratic that party must be given credit for it. It is still an issue in the politics of the state. The prohibitionists are opposed to it and the democrats are divided among themselves. The present governor, McSweeney, is a supporter of the law and was nominated after a close contest against a democrat opposed to the law. In his message to the legislature this year Governor McSweeney declares that the dispensary method of dealing with the liquor problem is growing in favor with the public and that in 1901 the management was businesslike and satisfactory.

During the first five years of the law the profits of the dispensary were $1,292,522.43. As during much of this time the constabulary system of rooting out illegal competition was demoralized, the state was competing with blind piggers. We have no information as to the effect of the dispensary on the total sales of intoxicants in the state. As the dispensary becomes more firmly entrenched and the illicit trade is repressed the sales increase. They grew from $1,196,000 in 1897 to $2,228,681.21 in 1901.

The dispensary system simply gives the state a monopoly of the liquor business. No drinking is permitted on the premises and the doors close at sundown. The profits are divided between the state and the county and town governments. The state at present distributes about $125,000 a year of its portion to assist schools whose regular income is not sufficient to keep them open three months in the year. In 1899 the total profits were $414,181 and in 1901 they were $545,000. The system is administered by a state commission with a superintendent and county boards of control. These appoint the local dispensers who must be abstainers.

A writer in The Outlook of April 8, 1899, says that the testimony of sober, conservative citizens of every rank and profession is now practically unanimous that drunkenness and the crimes resulting therefrom have decreased beyond expectation.

The Manitoba Free Press, of Winnipeg, has issued a crop supplement, in which it takes about the same view of the wheat yield in western Canada this year that has been given in these columns. We have said that 70,000,000 bushels was a very liberal outside estimate. The Free Press cannot figure more than 66,000,000 bushels at the best and considers it safe to estimate that the yield will be about 60,000,000, as against 63,000,000 last year. The acreage is only a little larger, the yield will be no greater per acre, and the late harvest—from a week to ten days later than last year—makes it possible that it will be less. But to hold its own after such a great crop year as 1901 is achievement enough for western Canada and will advertise its fertility and prospects very extensively.

Some day when the Tribune wishes to give the public an interesting editorial feature it should compile excerpts from its editorials on Cuban reciprocity. They would be so contradictory, so diverse and divergent in their opinions, so scattering in their conclusions, so amiable in agreeing that everybody is right, so aggressive in declaring that everybody is wrong, so insistent that the insurgents are wrong, so sure that they are right, so confident that they "betrayed their trust," so positive that they were faithful to their duty, so sure that the question is a grave one, so sure that it is unimportant, that the readers would find more fun in them than in the antics of a barrel of monkeys liberally mixed with cats.

Judge Amidon, of the United States circuit court, administered a sharp rebuke the other day to disgruntled and captious people who sometimes invoke the powers of the law against institutions of trust solely for the purpose of satisfying a grudge or wreaking vengeance for some fancied wrong.

Judge Amidon's opinion was published in this paper a few days ago, and had reference to the attempt of certain parties to wreck the Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance company. He reviews the situation at considerable length, throws the complaints out of court, sustains the management of the company in every particular as to which it had been questioned, and concludes with the wholesome suggestion that proceedings of this kind against an insurance company, or other institutions whose chief asset is the confidence of the public, should be impossible except when brought by the attorney general, and, in the case of an insurance company, at the instance of the insurance commissioner. He cites the fact that in nearly all the older commonwealths it is required that such action must be brought by the attorney general or some other officer of the state charged with that duty. This would seem to be a very proper form of protection for fiduciary institutions and a regulation which would amply protect the rights of the individual as well as the interests of the company.

To persons who are inquiring when the bottom will fall out of the land business Budd Reeve of North Dakota replies, "When the population of the world ceases to increase." In the long run this will apply satisfactorily, but if Budd will examine some of the charts prepared by the census bureau he will find considerable areas of the most populous parts of the United States shown as having decreased in land value during the last decade. The general value of lands has greatly increased for the whole country, to be sure. But those charts serve to remind us that not all land increases in value when an increase is desired. Ultimately the cheap lands of New York and New England will go up, but just now they are down and have been going down. As for land values in the west the census reports are full of good omen.

The voluntary reduction of grain rates by northwestern railways is a striking and profitable illustration of the change that is coming over railway managements. They have at last learned that it does not pay to "buck" the people and state governments. The railway managements are at last coming to take the view of their business that the people, the legislatures and the courts have now taken for some years—namely, that the roads have no right to charge more than will yield a fair rate of profit on fair capitalization of their properties. It saves annoying litigation and it saves time and prevents a dangerous public irritability for the railways to reduce rates from time to time in accordance with the rule, as traffic grows.

If, as is reported, Congressman Burton of Cleveland, Ohio, declines to be a candidate for re-election, the decision of Judge Morris to the same effect will be a peculiar disappointment to the people of his district. Judge Morris is the fifth man on the rivers and harbors committee. If Mr. Burton does not return to the next house the chances of Judge Morris' nomination as chairman are excellent. Two of the men above him, besides Burton, will not be in the next congress, and two others are so conspicuously less qualified for the office of chairman that there is reason to believe that Mr. Morris would receive that appointment.

Some recent exhibitions of gross carelessness and offensive indifference to the rights of other people exhibited by automobile drivers on the road to Minnetonka emphasize the importance of stringent regulations as to speed and plain rules as to liability for damage done.

Almost the whole of the crypt of St. Paul's cathedral, London, is being used for workshops.

The Nonpareil Man

Casually Observed.

The Fat Boys' association is offering $5,000 for the invention of an automobile that doesn't want to climb a tree.

Judge Morris says he will not run. The sigh of relief hove by Jadam Bede sounded like the exhaust of a N. P. freight locomotive on a heavy grade.

The old Gale house is being torn down to make room for a modern block. How well we remember camping out on that property in 1832, when the business and residence sections were down near the river.

Robbers exploded a postoffice at East Palestine, Ohio, Thursday night and drew $1,200. It might be a good plan to leave a bunch of dynamite in the safe over night.

The Anoka county tiger fled to the jungle, but the Anoka county wolf will be ripe for the sportsmen by March.

"East Lynne," with a "me child" heroine, who throws thirty consecutive weeps in thirty consecutive minutes, is doing St. Paul to full houses. If the capital can stand for this, it is ripe for more Uncle Tommery.

The Farmers' Co-operative Grain company proposes to use $12,500,000 of the funds from the sale of stock to operate in grain on the Board of Trade in Chicago. Wouldn't that be a sporty farmers' organization?

It has been pretty damp for fish this year. They are said to have quit biting.

Peasants along the road in France, just before Mr. Fair's automobile ran into the tree, state that the vehicle was running so rapidly that it was impossible to see its color. A group of children playing in the road would stand less show for their lives under these conditions than they would if they were playing on a railroad track. For the train usually keeps pretty close to one track, but the autodevil is likely to be on both sides or in the middle of the road at the same time. Until the laws are more vigorously enforced, our children will play in the garret.

Alderman Michael Kenna of the first ward of Chicago, somewhat too familiarly known as "Hinky Dink," recently left for the east with an array of clothes that would make a bill board medicine advertisement look colorless. Mr. Kenna's trip was made to outshine Alderman Bathhouse John of Chicago, who stirred up such a sensation last year by adopting a vest that could be heard above the roar of traffic, and a pair of trousers that were a purple riot. The first ward alderman, on the eve of his departure from Chicago, said:

"I hear de smart fry is up to Saratoga. That's where me friend 'Bat'house' John bucked de high life two years ago. 'Bat'house' is in Colorado dese days doin' tall stunts with his opera voice. You ever hear 'Bat'house' sing dat song of his, 'Dear Midnight of Love'? Dat's swell! 'Bat'house' is all right, but he's got nothin' like de trousseau I've got locked in me trunks."

Mr. Kenna was right. When he strolled down Broadway, says a New York dispatch, he wore a white flannel suit, bronze-colored shoes, a wide-brim Panama hat, a pale pink silk shirt, a low cut waistcoat of lavender and a long flowing green tie with yellow ends. A diamond, suggesting a warship's searchlight, dazzled the eyes of the wondering throng. A monocle on his left eye gave aristocratic wrinkles to his cheek. Dark-blue smoke floated from a big Perfecto. In his coat lapel was a bunch of corn flowers. A bamboo stick, with a gold head, swung from a carefully poised forefinger. Several members of "the squad" nearly had heart failure at the apparition and the regular habitues of "the Lane" were filled with dark green envy.

In Mr. Kenna's outfit is one pair of shoes of white glazed leather with large brass eyelets, relieved by bright red strings. He also has a turquoise-blue dress suit, with a pearl-colored waistcoat and gold buttons. He owns twenty-seven pairs of trousers, ranging in color from the lighter slate effects to the invisible stripe; plaids loud enough to keep one awake nights; all of which are peg-legged, turned up at the bottom and properly creased.

Bathhouse John and Hinky Dink are in reality more to Chicago than mere aldermen. They have become national characters.

These gorgeous sartorial emutes with which they dazzle the eyes of the metropolis are, in fact, deep satires upon the extravagancies in dress which would otherwise creep in upon the masculine wardrobe unless they were laughed out of court. Under the performances of Hinky Dink and Bathhouse, there is a deep philosophical significance. It shows that the nation is still sound at the core and that the canker of the riotous vest has not yet eaten into its heart. Bathhouse and Dink may yet be a strong hand to draw to in Chicago politics.

MINNESOTA POLITICS

The campaign in the third district promises to be unique this year. Seven live candidates for congress, hustling hard for the next four weeks, will give the people of the district their fill of excitement.

A novel proposition is now being discussed by the candidates. It is to revive the old idea of the "hustings." Under this scheme the candidates would go about the district in a body, holding meetings at the principal towns, at which each candidate would declare himself on the issues of the day, and answer any question put to him from the audience. This would give the voters a chance to make comparisons, and to place the candidates on record. So far the candidates have been very quiet as to platforms.

The idea is said to originate with Frank Wilson of Red Wing, who certainly would not suffer in such a campaign. Two or three of the others would be quite capable of holding their own in such a mix-up, but it is not likely that the seven would all enter it, for some of them would appear at a serious disadvantage. It would be a trying sort of campaign, but the most satisfactory that could be imagined from the voter's standpoint.

Five of the candidates are considered seriously as bidders for the nomination. Captain Reed of Glencoe and Dr. Jones of Red Wing are no doubt in dead earnest, and both are capable men, but one is set aside as too old and the other as too young. The other five have positive elements of strength, and it is any man's fight just yet. Frank Wilson is an able debater and a forceful character, and will probably have a majority over all in his own big county of Goodhue, while his ability will command votes in the other sections.

E. A. Whitford is a clean, able man, very popular in his own county of Dakota, and in his boyhood home, Rice county. He makes an excellent impression, and has no enemies, which facts make him a desirable candidate.

Patrick W. Morrison is a clean, able young attorney, immensely popular where he is known as a good "mixer." He is regarded as a formidable candidate. He is strong in Carver, Scott and McLeod.

C. R. Davis of St. Peter is highly regarded for his ability and well known in the western end of the district. He is the idol of the dominant faction in Nicollet county, which he will probably carry, and is also strong in Le Sueur and Sibley.

Gideon S. Ives is probably the best-known man of the seven, taking the district as a whole. He is prominent in Masonic, Odd Fellow and Grand Army circles, and his long public service has made his name familiar, which goes a long way.

Apropos of the suggestion made by Frank Wilson, why wouldn't it be a good idea in the Fifth district? The voters have heard each of the three candidates separately—why not get together and discuss the issues face to face, instead of sparring at long range? There are a good many questions the voters would like to ask the candidates, too, which have been barred by the etiquette of the previous meetings.

Third District Dems. Modest.

Democrats of the third seem to much prefer such positions as state senator or county attorney to a seat in congress. The list of refusals grows every day, and the conference in St. Paul yesterday could not find a man who would take the nomination. It adjourned to meet next Friday morning at Shakopee. With John A. Johnson, Albert Schaller, R. H. McClelland and W. H. Leeman out of the way, a strong sentiment developed yesterday for W. C. Odell of Chaska, but nothing was known as to his feelings. He will be "rounded up" before Friday. Senator McHale of Shakopee and C. C. Kolars of Le Sueur are also under consideration. The democratic editors of the district will form an organization at the Shakopee conference.

Dropped It Voluntarily.

The word "democratic" was not forced off the "social democratic" designation by the legislature. The 1901 law prohibited the use of a party name by another party, but it could not be retroactive, and could not deprive the social democrats of the name they had been using. Their reason for the change is that the national organization uses the simple name "socialist," and the Minnesota organization desires to be uniform. They are also delivered of the stigma of being called "assistant republicans."

Runs as a Republican.

E W. Durant of Stillwater, formerly one of the leading democrats of Minnesota, filed yesterday as a republican candidate for the state senate from Washington county. Mr. Durant was a Lincoln republican, but left the party in 1872. He was once candidate for lieutenant governor on the democratic ticket, but he left the party in 1896. Since then he has voted as a republican, but has not been prominent in party matters.

Rapp Stays at Home.

C. G. Rapp of St. Hilaire, one of the substantial members of the last house, announced yesterday that he would not seek re-election, and his friends are much disappointed. He overcame a populist majority two years ago. Business cares and the state of his health induced his retirement. It is now up to Red Lake county to bring out a good man, or go after the senatorship.

Another Merger Dodge.

It hardly seems necessary to explain it again, but the Red Wing Argus will not find anything in the state law on the merger that provides for forfeiture of charters. The statute is prohibitive, and plain in its language, and the way to enforce it is by injunction. However, the St. Paul Globe presents the merger side of the case much better than the Argus, and it seems strange the democratic state organization should think it necessary to support the Red Wing organ. The Globe, at least, is candid, and will do the democratic cause less harm. Neither can do it any good by attacking the anti-merger campaign.

By the way, North Dakota democrats are making an anti-merger campaign.

J. C. Pope of Mora, a member of the last house, was in St. Paul yesterday. He says Bede will carry Kanabec county almost solid, and that Dr. Cowan of Sandstone will get a good vote there in his senatorial contest with L. H. McKusick.

McGuire Against Fosnes.

John McGuire, the democratic candidate for the state senate from the Lac qui Parle-Chippewa district, hopes to get the votes of many republicans who can stand for C. A. Fosnes and his recent conversion from populism. The latter's populist friends are particularly bitter against him, but it is believed that he will win out handily.

Third district prohibitionists are out for Blood—he's their candidate for congress.
—Charles B. Cheney.

Books and Authors

MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

To a girl who wrote to her from Wisconsin saying her friends told her she had a "talent for writing," and that she would like to get some literary work to do in New York, Mrs. Humphreys, while unutterly pessimistic. She told the Wisconsin girl that "every woman who can create a new place is welcomed," and it is true. The thing is to have the talent to create a new place, to write about something one knows best from observation and experience, in such an original way that the public will read it and call for more of the same kind.

John Kendrick Bangs.

This is applicable to both men and women. Townsend, Crane, Field, Richard Harding Davis, Joel Chandler Harris, Bret Harte, Bill Nye and many others who might be mentioned, through the gateway of journalism entered the literary life. Ella Wheeler, a Wisconsin girl, who used to run about the farm in short calico dresses and bare feet, rhymed herself into public favor and married well, and, after a copious emission of "poems of passion," has settled down as a grave counsellor to young women through the columns of a New York newspaper. And here is the aggressive Mary Maclane conquering her way into a feature-writing position on a New York paper. Ella Wheeler and Mary Maclane are somewhat extreme cases of aggressive tactics on the part of young women to get in the literary swim, so to speak, without serving the apprenticeship and discipline of drudgery.

There are other women who have gone through and have clear sailing before them on calmer seas.

One of the mistakes made by people who aspire to make a living by writing is their sublime confidence in the judgment of friends that they have a "talent for writing," and they ought to be given an opportunity to distinguish themselves. These kind friends, nine times out of ten, mislead and humiliate the modest alleged genius.

NEW BOOKS

Wisdom vs. Foolishness. By H. D. Perky, President of Orlead Institute, Worcester, Mass. Perky Publishing Co., Worcester, Mass.

This volume embodies a plea for proper nutrition through what the author calls "naturally organized food," which prolongs the natural forces of man, because life-giving principles are stored in it. He believes that the hope of the twentieth century, so far as this country is concerned, lies in the proper nourishment of its people, but more especially its children. He emphasizes this by declaring that, while the evil in man cannot be legislated out of him, "it can be fed out of him." And Mr. Perky would feed him chiefly with vegetable food, bringing forward Bible texts to prove that God favors natural foods. Mr. Perky is not fanatical on the subject, but he fails to cite the text showing how common was the use of meat by the patriarchs, prophets and Jewish people generally, gluttony as to all food being condemned. He should remember that one of the last acts of Christ himself before his ascension was to eat a piece of broiled fish. There is no doubt that temperate eating of unadulterated food is the procuring cause of health, and it is also true that the milk adjunct recommended by Mr. Perky does not agree with very many persons.

Kings of the Queensberry Realm. By W. W. Naughton. Illustrated. Chicago: The Continental Publishing company, 168 Adams street.

Mr. Naughton is reported to be the "best-known sporting authority in America," an authority, more especially, on the "art of self-defense," in its current form of "boxing" contests, which he commends as dove-cote billing and cooing, as compared with the old style of milling with its brutal blows and bruises, broken ribs, bodies gashed by spiked shoes. In this volume Mr. Naughton tells of all the heavyweight championship contests held in America under the Marquis of Queensberry rules, and a sketch of the pugilists who have taken part in them; he gives an account of the Australian boxers' invasion, with a complete ring record of heavyweight pugilists, with many illustrations.

Defective Page