

THE JOURNAL

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Nice, Harmless Bomb.

Congressman McCleary is advertised to explode a political bomb on or after Sept. 16. A credulous correspondent, after sitting at the congressman's feet for a few minutes, has stamped the bomb as genuine and held it up to the awed gaze of all who read his paper.

We are unable to agree with this correspondent. To us this bomb seems about as dangerous as a Quaker cannon. We can think of no place that will be freed from mortal germs and injuries when the bomb explodes than a nice-stool made of that same bomb. At this writing it is not plain whether the congressman or the correspondent is responsible for the assertion that the former is the proud possessor of one, large bomb, which will scatter political death and destruction over at least two Minnesota districts.

However, this alleged bomb consists in trading stock in a general Canadian reciprocity scheme. The tariff in Canada is a very vague and very general statement. It always has been higher in parts of Canada than in the United States. We imagine it always has been higher in Assiniboin than in Minnesota. It may or may not now be higher in Ontario than in Minnesota. If Congressman McCleary says it is higher in Ontario than in Minnesota we will take his word for it. But what then?

If it is to remain as it is, of what use is the tariff as a means of protection to the American manufacturer and workman?

If it is not to remain as it is, but is soon to be lower in Ontario than in Minnesota, the tariff should be reduced or abolished so that the consumers of lumber, after all these years, may enjoy a little protection.

A portion of the bomb consists in the warning that the tariff on lumber, being useless as a measure of protection, should be retained for reciprocity trading purposes. It might be frivolous to suggest that if the tariff is of no account to our lumbermen its removal will be of no account to Canadian lumbermen, and that it is, therefore, might be poor trading stock. But the condition Mr. McCleary finds to exist he admits to be a temporary one. When it passes the tariff will have a reciprocity trade value.

Still, we fail to find the explosives. Plenty of advocates of the removal of the lumber tariff have advised that it be used as trading stock in a general Canadian reciprocity scheme. But Mr. McCleary's researches may have the advantage of taking the ginger out of democratic free trade talk, as they tend to show that just at present the lumber tariff is not hurting anyone and that there is time to apply the mild reciprocity treatment instead of free trade surgery.

William D. Lord, a young man who occupied a position of trust and ample emolument, abused the confidence his employers reposed in him. Now after a year's chase he is in jail on the charge of embezzling \$15,000. Yet other "sporty" young men will look all about Lord's case and go and do likewise.

A Trade Opener.

Consul General Goodnow cabled yesterday from Shanghai confirming the report that the British-Chinese treaty had been signed, and stating that Minister Conger would proceed to the completion of the negotiations of a commercial treaty with the United States securing similar concessions for the American trade. It was understood that the British treaty was to be the basis of the treaties with the other nations and the effectuation of such concessions as are embodied in it will be of the utmost business importance to our own country, which is justified in looking for a large share of Chinese trade.

The British treaty contains fourteen articles, the most important of which are those protecting trade marks, increasing landing facilities and bonding privileges at the open ports, the improvement of Canton river and harbor, pledge of China to provide a uniform national currency, abolition of the likin tax, reform of mining regulations, reform of China's judicial system, provision for an investigation of the missionary question.

One of the most abominable obstructions to trade within China is the likin or inland tax, which is collected by mandarins and other officials of the interior at brief intervals, making the price of merchandise to the interior purchaser almost prohibitive, as the likin is a cumulative tax, levied on goods that have already paid customs duties upon entering one of the open ports.

Business houses trading with China express doubts whether this clause of the treaty can be enforced, as the inland tax is a favorite form of robbery among Chinese interior officials. It is proposed that 7 1/2 per cent be added to the customs duties in lieu of the likin tax. If imperial decrees were trustworthy this clause of

IN A NUTSHELL.... Some Lumber and Other Manufacturing Figures

"Reduce the tariff on lumber" or "abolish the tariff on lumber" are now very popular political watchwords. Few people, perhaps, realize that the manufacture of lumber is one of the four chief industries of the United States, and that whoever seeks to abolish its tariff protection must count on the most formidable opposition.

In value of its product lumber is exceeded by the value of the products of the food, textile and iron and steel industries, the figures being: Food, \$2,377,702,019; iron and steel, \$1,793,490,908; textiles, \$1,637,484,484; lumber, \$1,080,906,879.

It employs 547,000 men. In total wages it ranks third, paying out in that form \$212,000,000 a year. In capital it also ranks third, employing \$948,000,000. Minnesota is the lumber producing state in the union, Wisconsin being first and Michigan second.

Minnesota produced in 1899 \$44,000,000 worth of lumber. Michigan produced \$54,000,000 worth. Wisconsin produced \$58,000,000 worth. The total number of employees in Minnesota is 15,140, the wages \$7,140,571, and the capital \$52,000,000.

When the courts and juries and prosecutors establish by their practice the fact that the law has just as severe penalties for the bribe-taker as for the bribe-taker there will be less bribery. It isn't fair, anyway to send the weak victim of the tempter to prison and allow his seducer to continue to dine at his club.

The complaint of Beltrami county regarding alleged injustice to its state fair exhibit should be fully inquired into. The display was certainly a very creditable one and was made up of produce contributed by farmers from their regularly cultivated fields, without special preparation for exhibition purposes.

We haven't figured just what percentage of comfort the democrats are able to get out of the Maine election with a 25,000 republican majority, but we are willing to throw in the fractions.

Why not abolish the attorney general's office and give the supreme court a vacation sine die so long as the gentle and busy Ed Stevens tarries with us.

The treaty negotiated by Minister Conger will embody the features of the British treaty and no special advantages will be given to any one of the powers. Whatever trade advantages Great Britain gets we will get.

Don't Overlook the Briber. Eighteen members of the St. Louis house of delegates have been indicted for accepting a bribe from a street railway corporation.

Those eighteen men are deserving of no sympathy, if guilty as charged. But the man or men or corporation who bribed them are deserving of no mercy, either.

If there is a difference in degree of guilt, it favors the bribe-taker. The briber is worse than the bribed, just as the tempter is worse than the tempted. If there were no corrupt men to give bribes, there would be no men corrupted by receiving them.

Yet as society is kinder to the man than to the woman who offends against social law, so it is kinder to the briber than his victim. A man convicted of having taken a bribe is a marked, a ruined man. The briber is considered a clever business man. No club expels him, no house shuts its doors in his face, no church disciplines him.

If the new Hennepin county grand jury finds occasion to take up any case of bribery in Minneapolis, it will do its duty, and the community a great service, by looking at the cause as well as the effect.

When teachers' positions in the Minneapolis schools go begging it is safe to conclude that the high water mark of prosperity has been reached. Notwithstanding the onerous duties of the position, teachers have not been more numerous candidates than places. This surplus of good material has had a tendency to keep down teachers' salaries below a point commensurate with the responsibility and value of their services. If, as stated, qualified women are finding better pay in other means of gaining a livelihood the lot of those who remain in the schools should soon be bettered.

Straw votes, like figures, won't lie, but that can't be said always of men who make figures, no more can it that the men who take straw votes are always fair. A straw vote taken by a strong Fletcher partisan may not settle the primary election in advance; it will still be necessary, no doubt, to go ahead and have the primary election, but if it has any value at all the Joe Mannix straw vote must be conceded to show very plainly that the race for the congressional nomination is not where the Fletcher men have hitherto claimed, but is between Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Hay.

Alonso Whiteman is now playing the role of a Methodist preacher with crowded houses and unlimited "supply" opportunities. This prodigal son, regenerated sinner business is all right in its place, but such an accomplished rascal as Whiteman has been for fifteen years or more ought to have time for the production of a large crop of the "peaceable fruits of righteousness," before any religious society receives him as a leader in the service of the Lord.

Here's to good old Governor Ramsey, who was 87 years old yesterday! Every time the sturdy old first territorial and war governor adds another year to his venerable total thousands of Minnesotans, old and young, are glad. Even if they don't write to the governor their congratulations go out to him just the same.

An Iowa boy who wanted to be a farmer killed himself because his grandparents insisted on attendance at school. That boy probably knew what was best for him. Had he gone to school the embryo of a good farmer would have been spoiled to make a poor scholar. When any boy

AMUSEMENTS

Chauncey Olcott in "Old Limerick Town" at the Metropolitan.

"Old Limerick Town," Chauncey Olcott's new stage romance, now in its second week, contains the germs of a much better play than it is at present. It has been written well and when it shall have been well rewritten it will undoubtedly do fuller justice to the unquestioned ability of Augustus Pitou, manager and playwright.

At present the piece may be said to be in the lumber period. It is frequently talked, and its climaxes are too long delayed. In other words, it lacks celerity of action.

Despite these defects, "Old Limerick Town" pleases. There is a novel plot which is developed ingeniously and it tells an interesting story, albeit the telling is marred by occasional lapses into interruptions. Its defects are technical merely and may be remedied easily through the judicious use of a blue pencil.

There is a certain character whose affairs have nothing whatever to do with the main thread of the story, and permits her to tell and retell her own love story, a habit which is somewhat tedious in interruptions. It is a somewhat tiresome habit which is to be remedied.

Mr. Olcott has written four new ballads for the play, "The Limerick Girls," "The Black and White," "The Noreen Mavourneen," and "Every Little Dog Must Have Its Day." The latter is a quaint conceit in the shape of a child's song, and should become popular.

"Old Limerick Town" has been given an elaborate production, the scenery of the second act being particularly fine.

Rose Melville in "Sis Hopkins" at the Bijou.

The career of Rose Melville has been peculiar. She is a young woman who came to Minneapolis as a member of a farce-comedy company, in a piece known as "The Froggish Father." It is the most of its kind "The Froggish Father" had little to recommend it to serious consideration; but Miss Melville played a five-minute part in it which was considered as Sis Hopkins, a bashful, awkward girl from Posey county, Indiana.

Miss Melville, nevertheless, became popular. Her performance was so good that she was engaged to play at the Bijou, and she has since that time been a star in a character which she herself has made a specialty of.

It has been claimed that Rose Melville cribbed the idea of Sis from a fellow professional. If that is so the public is the loser, for the actor who explains the joke is much to be admired in Sis, and the success that has attended the play, now in its fourth season, justifies its elaboration.

The company is a fine one, and the sketch into a three-act play. The trick was done and Miss Melville began her career as a star in a character which she herself has made a specialty of.

The redoubtable J. J. Furlong thinks of running as a democratic candidate for the senate in Mower county in case the republican nominee is C. D. Belden.

Senator R. E. Thompson of Preston has things his own way in Fillmore county, as he has secured the nomination, and there is that he will receive as many votes as his two opponents combined.

Senator Thompson has always been above suspicion, and he has the confidence of his fellow citizens, he wielded considerable influence. He was foremost in the fight for the Anderson law and the general assembly.

Two Tawney postmasters brought out the rival candidates, to keep Senator Thompson from doing anything for Knatvold. They were in a hot quarrel, and the nomination is neutral in the congressional fight.

Would be Legislators in Wabasha. A prominent citizen of Wabasha has been elected to the legislature, and the state senate made vacant by the retirement of Allen J. Grear. Three are after the democratic nomination, and two want the democratic nomination.

Lake county wants the senatorship again, and the present incumbent is the nomination of J. M. Underwood, the well known nursery man. He is a strong man, and he will not be easily beaten.

What the Straw Vote Shows. Much prominence is given by Mr. Fletcher's newspaper supporters to a straw vote taken by J. T. Mannix, a strong partisan of the congressman. It was played, Dick Harris, a Hon. man 83, and 143 undecided. Straw votes are well known to be poor indicators of public sentiment, and no doubt a friend of the other candidate could have easily got a vote equally favorable to his man, by using equally good judgment as to the place where he stood and the people applied.

Downing people are jubilant over the fact that the newspapers of Renville county have at last been sold for their man. The Morton Enterprise, which has been supporting Young, came out in its last issue for Downing.

SIX YARDS OF YARN

By ALICE MACGOWAN

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The dust rose in choking clouds. The feet of the dancers thudded a dull accompaniment to the wailing music which the Madman thumped down from the harp and guitar. One or two men were dancing with spurs on till a ripped dress and a shrill feminine protest excluded them from the floor.

It was a ranch dance at Billy Motlow's Bar 13 ranch, and the ladies who graced the occasion, except Louise Morrison and Mrs. W. J. Porter, the school teacher, were all married women. Their numerous progeny had been stowed in an adjoining room. Mrs. Billy, aware of what would be expected, had made a bed of blankets and comfortable along one wall. There the youngsters reposed, their bare toes sticking out toward the beholder.

Poor Gene McKnight leaned against a doorpost and watched the dancers. He was outcast from the whole festivity since he might not even speak to Louise Morrison. The girl looked pale, heavy-eyed and unhappy. Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Zerk Morrison, who rejoiced in the singularly felicitous nickname of "Chubb," a round-faced, tight-skinned, red-headed black beauty who was dancing in the same set with Louise, kept a sharp lookout that McKnight got nowhere near her charge. She was bounding like a rubber ball, and her eyes were snapping with delight. She could afford to enjoy herself, for her attitude toward McKnight and her intentions conveyed her husband's sister were matters well known and clearly understood by all present. The bachelor population of the county, sporting itself in the dance and pretty much all other lovers or potential suitors of Louise, lent willing and valuable assistance.

Gene McKnight was the finest looking, best hearted and sweetest tempered six feet of masculinity on the whole Pack-saddle range. He was an inspired coddler, and had come up rapidly from cow puncher, for which he was famous, to a nice bunch of cattle and a good ranch of his own. When Louise Morrison, then only 17 years old, came out to stay with her brother Zack on the ranch, she was a young girl, and she was a girl of the community of eligible bachelors, hood, a belle and the possessor of many desirable suitors. Gene, whose ranch was in the heart of the Open Range, had made it plain that she had his heart, and the girl, artless and impulsive and with no vestige of the coquette in her makeup, allowed herself to be wooed by the young man who was given to Gene in exchange.

The disappointed swains took their defeat as becomes men, and all would now have gone well and merrily, had it not been for Mrs. Chubb's only and adored offspring, Beauregard, a youth of some four summers, and as Pack-saddle declared, "the littlest of the bunch." He was dragged his lariat round over the Texas Panhandle. The seemingly favorable fact of propinquity was what the young man had in mind. He was waxing familiar with the young man's personality, not to say his anatomy. Beauregard, Beauregard, a youth of some four summers, and as Pack-saddle declared, "the littlest of the bunch." He was dragged his lariat round over the Texas Panhandle. The seemingly favorable fact of propinquity was what the young man had in mind. He was waxing familiar with the young man's personality, not to say his anatomy. Beauregard, Beauregard, a youth of some four summers, and as Pack-saddle declared, "the littlest of the bunch." He was dragged his lariat round over the Texas Panhandle. 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