# THE JOURNAL

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# The Journal Goes Home.


## The War and Business Conditions.

All the money markets of the world are now feeling in greater or less degree, directly or indirectly, the effect of the far-eastern war. Violent disturbances have recently occurred on the principal European exchanges.

The contest raging in and about the Yellow sea is not, properly, a factor sufficiently great to upset the even balance of the world's financial scale. Declines in such bonds or other securities as are directly borne upon by the war were felt soon after hostilities began, as was to be expected, while prices of the more highly speculative commodities, since very erratic, had begun to show severe changes, and to cover wider ranges of fluctuation, even before war became a certainty. Yet the Russian-Japanese struggle presents, in itself, nothing to cause general monetary disturbance.

Possibilities great and terrible, and patent to careful observers, lie in this contest, but they are possibilities, not probabilities. Until within a few days the political world had offered nothing to suggest entanglements, and open report had been favorable. The effort of Secretary Hay, looking towards the defining of a fighting zone, the narrowing or localizing of the war, and the favorable spirit in which this far-sighted and rather daring diplomatic move was received by other great powers, strengthened the belief in monetary centers, that the war would be fought out without the dragging in of other nations.

Meanwhile, however, the gathering cloud in the Balkans caused some little concern, and rumors arose later, from almost every corner of Europe, of secret armament, preparation for mobilization of troops and indications of a general clash. It needed only the departure of the Russian ambassador from London to bring the crisis.

The clouds lifted in a day or two and the moves of the Russian ambassador were found to be without important significance. The outlook cleared, and things that had looked so threatening were found not to be so pregnant with danger, after all; but there had been panics in the meantime in Paris, Berlin and Vienna, and demoralization almost approaching panic in the London securities market. New York suffered only such decline as was consequent upon the liquidation in that market of blocks of securities by foreign holders forced to realize, but the effect upon investment sentiment was to increase caution and upon speculative sentiment it was chilling. It was a forcible illustration of the great uncertainty of the situation. While this uncertainty exists, and the aggressive attitude of the Turks and Bulgarians, additional to the Russian-Japanese war, threatens to disturb the peace of Europe, the foreign markets are likely to be unsettled and this will be to some extent reflected in the New York market.

Freight blockades have been a handicap to business, resulting not so much from increased volume of traffic as from long continued weather conditions unfavorable for railroad operation. Earnings are showing the moderate decreases expected, and are not so bad on the whole as looked for, nineteen principal roads making gross decreases for the week of only .81 per cent.

The steel mills now report orders in hand equal to almost 50 per cent of steel rail capacity for 1904. This is no such brilliant showing as was made for the past several years, but it is much better than was indicated when the new year opened.

Some 1,400 telegraphers on the middle division of the Wabash railroad are said to be planning a demand for higher wages, but this is about the only important new development in the labor field.

Wheat has entered into that state of speculative activity where ordinary price changes are no longer of importance, and gains or losses of 2 to 4 cents are the order of the day. So great is the outside interest in the market, and so quick the buying on the upturns, that new high points have been made repeatedly, with May touching top at $1.05 to this writing.

That many farmers have held wheat back for $1 a bushel need not be doubted, but how much there is back it is impossible to estimate closely. Whether there is a considerable quantity so held, or whether, as the bulls maintain, the country is more thoroly cleaned out of wheat than for years, will probably be demonstrated soon, now that cash wheat in nearly all markets is well above $1. The next important price-making factor will be the government report of Feb. 1, giving an estimate of stocks of wheat remaining on the farms.

Mr. A. W. Hadley, representing the National Irrigation association, is in Minneapolis soliciting memberships in the association. Our people are now familiar enough with the purposes and scope of irrigation by the national government to be willing to contribute liberally to the association that has brought it about and is working for its extension.

## A World War?

It is but natural that the correspondents in the European capitals should be daily tempted to assert that the world-war is at hand.

It is not strange that the treaty by which Korea, tho nominally guaranteed its independence, really becomes a Japanese protectorate, should be made the occasion of another prediction that a widespread war is at hand.

Once such a war as that which has just begun to rage gets well started there is no telling, of course, what complications may ensue. The fact that the cause of the war is the conflicting aims of two great powers regarding a portion of Chinese territory and that all the great nations are intensely interested in the fate of China, is enough to make the situation one that may explode at any moment.

Yet there are some facts that tend strongly to dam the tide that would draw other nations into the combat of Slav and Jap. At present the only way the theater of war could be enlarged would be thru the decision of France that the coalition of Korea and Japan against Russia binds the republic, under the terms of the Franco-Russian treaty, to come to Russia's assistance. If France were to do that then Great Britain, under the terms of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, would range herself on the side of Japan.

But France does not want war, much as it may sympathize with Russia. An unsuccessful war would mean the despoliation by Great Britain of the French colonial empire and the reduction of France to a debt-burdened, impoverished, dispirited third-rate nation. It is likely, therefore, that the French statesmen will take full advantage of the fact that the coalition of Japan and Korea, after the virtual conquest of the latter by the former, is in no proper sense an alliance, and that the formal proclamation of intimate relations between the two countries in no sense menaces Russia more than she was menaced by Japan's occupation of and actual ability to do with Korea as she pleased. Such an alliance under duress should not be accepted by France as the kind of an alliance the Franco-Russian treaty had in view when it bound France to join Russia in the event of the latter being attacked by two nations.

It is possible that Germany's coquetting with Russia at this time may cause France to lose her head and suddenly undertake to prove by extreme action that she is Russia's only real friend. But it must be remembered that France now seems to be in the hands of strong and cool men, who are adroitly steering the ship of state of the republic with a view to preserving it rather than some other ship.

It is not at all likely that Great Britain will take any part in the war so long as victory perches on the Japanese standards and perhaps not in any event unless her statesmen become convinced that Russian victory actually threatens the whole fabric of Britain's Asiatic empire. France is no mean enemy, and the British food supply is too precarious for the rulers of the empire to take any chances in the game of war that are not actually forced upon them. Victory in such a war would be little better than defeat. English commercial supremacy would in any event be a thing of the past.

Considering these elements of the situation and many more, is it not wise to conclude that while there is danger that the war fire will spread there are good reasons for believing that it will, at least for some time yet, be localized?

Editor Pyle of the Globe refused at the meeting of the democratic state central committee yesterday to commit himself to the effect that the Globe would be just as democratic after the St. Louis convention as before. Mr. Pyle doesn't seem to understand that for these many years the Minnesota democracy has pined for an organ. It has had all it wants of a democratic paper that is not democratic about election time.

## The Machen Verdict.

The conviction of Machen, late general superintendent of the rural free delivery division of the postoffice department; George E. Lorenz of Toledo and Samuel A. and D. B. Groff of Washington, for conspiracy to defraud the government, is a triumph of justice which was hardly expected where the conditions under which the prosecution was conducted are understood.

The government made a strong case of a circumstantial character, which showed that whenever the Groffs made a sale of mail-pouch fasteners to the government they presently remitted by check a certain percentage of the amount received to Lorenz of Toledo. The government also developed the fact that, altho great pains were taken by Lorenz to cover up the transaction by splitting up the deposit and dividing the remittances to Machen, half of the amount sent to Lorenz found its way in every instance to Machen.

There was nothing to show why the Groffs should remit to Lorenz except the possession by Lorenz of a $50 interest in the fasteners. This merely nominal interest was not large enough to justify the large profits which it was producing annually, and there was nothing to explain the remittances from Lorenz to Machen except the theory of the government that it was a part of the rake-off paid by the Groffs and reaching Machen in this roundabout way thru a middleman.

While this evidence was strong and convincing, the peculiar practice in the federal courts of the District of Columbia of permitting juries in criminal cases not only to go at will between sessions of the courts during the trial, but also the fact that the panel from which this jury was drawn was made up several weeks before the trial commenced, gave every opportunity for the purchase of the jury if it had been possible to do so. The verdict, under the circumstances, is a strong tribute to the honesty of the twelve men in the jury box. Machen and his co-conspirators did not expect conviction, until the very last. On the contrary, they were very confident of acquittal, and their confidence raised strong suspicion of the integrity of the jury.

In the conduct of this case, Milton Purdy of Minneapolis played an important part and won new professional honors. He made the opening speech for the government and presented the case in a manner which attracted much attention in Washington and excited exceedingly favorable comment from lawyers and other public men.

The naval recruiting station is rejecting many young men because they are cigarette smokers. And Uncle Sam is not the only employer who does that.

## Religious Education.

President Northrop in addressing the club women of the state a few days ago referred to the total insufficiency of the efforts of the church and the home in character training. His criticism of the negligence of mothers has been considerably commented upon, but the other co-ordinate factor in the training whose neglect he deplored has been overlooked in the discussion. Perhaps the attention is being directed chiefly to pressing home upon women their responsibilities because there are a good many encouraging signs to indicate that there is a growing recognition and acceptance of them and that the criticism is therefore likely to be fruitful of results.

Signs are not altogether lacking, however, that the pendulum has swung to the farthest extreme in the lack of sympathetic religious training of children thru the agency of the church. A few years ago the diocese of New York appointed a Sunday school commission to consider what steps should be taken for the improvement of the Sunday schools. The findings of this commission were that the church had not advanced with the day school along lines of educational reform, largely overlooking the study of pedagogical principles as applied to her Sunday schools, and almost completely ignoring it in the training of her clergy.

On the basic principle that the Sunday school is a school and its problems are educational problems, the commission arranged a series of important lectures by educational experts covering important educational questions applied to the religious training of children. Rev. Pascal Harrowe, chairman of the commission, formulated the result that should be expected and demanded from the Sunday school as fitting men for their duties of life. While granting the value and place of preaching and other tie-honored features of the life of the church, this lecturer declared that the warp, woof and web of Christian character are wrought out during the schoo pleriod of life. "Idaes cannot become the permanent possession of the world," he said, "that do not first enter thru the door of childhood."

On this basis it is argued that the function of the preacher is important but that the function of the teacher is of even deeper importance. Therefore a pedagogical training for its ministry is urged upon the church as a prerequisite of the religious training of the children of the church, and as a source of power and influence in the pulpit. Aptness for teaching was claimed by Luther as a prerequisite for the work of the ministry. He saw the need of the church school and provided for it, preparing himself two catechisms for the instruction of children, writing children's hymns and prayers that live as vividly as his preaching and theological writings.

The same questions that engaged the attention of the Sunday school commission account for the existence of the strong, new Religious Education association that holds its second annual meeting in Philadelphia next week to consider as its main topic "Religion in Practical Life." The existence of such an association led by men like Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia, Dr. W. R. Harper of Chicago university, Professor F. K. Sanders of Yale and Professor G. A. Coe of Northwestern university, gives a basis for a strong hope that the church is about to take up this fundamental duty earnestly and intelligently under the distinguished leadership of these great educators, who are putting their expert pedagogical knowledge at the service of the church.

That is an interesting fact found by the state labor bureau that municipal ownership of electric lighting plants in Minnesota results in lower pay for employees than those who serve private employers. One of the most frequent objections to municipal ownership of any kind is that it is bound to result in extravagantly high pay and other liberalities not in accord with the demands of economical management.

## British Politics.

The Associated Press announces from London this morning that the British parliament will be dissolved within six weeks. The dispatch continues that it is expected that in the ensuing elections the liberals will win with a majority of as high as 150, and that Lord Spencer will be called to form a cabinet. Joseph Chamberlain's friends are said to expect this result.

If a liberal ministry shall go into power this year, with a party united on the ancient platform of free trade and backed by a large majority in the house of commons, it may be many a long year before Chamberlain will get another chance to test the popularity of his scheme of cementing the empire with reciprocal tariffs. A parliament may last seven years and by that time Chamberlain's fiscal policy may be forgotten. It has never taken a strong hold on Canada, the greatest British colony, because the people do not go in for the Chamberlain brand of imperialism which is the complement of the fiscal policy. Without support in the colony where it most needs support and emphatically rejected at home, Chamberlainism is not likely to amount to much a number of years hence. Its great opportunity lay in flushing the game and it has not been able to succeed in that, shrewdly and energetically as it has played its cards.

Yesterday at Le Sueur Center was a sad one for faithless bankers. George S. Brainerd, president of a bank that owes its ruin to him, was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary, and W. H. Patten, a bank cashier, was sentenced to eight years for forgery. The juries undoubtedly knew their business, but before we can be sure that justice will be done we must wait until the supreme court has had its chance. Yet we must say that as a general proposition the way of the transgressor is hard in Minnesota.

Some of the alderman are said to be worried more over the loss of patronage from closing the pumping stations that distribute typhoid fever germs than they are over the continued distribution of the germs. Comment would be superfluous.

Buckman is for Dunn? Why, of course.

## SOUTH DAKOTA TOPICS

The Roberts county political situation is rather interesting. Insurance Commissioner Perkins is after the nomination for secretary of state on the republican ticket and former Representative C. H. Lien desires to be lieutenant governor. Mr. Lien announced himself, then formally withdrew, then withdrew his withdrawal and is now in the race to stay.

It's a long story if told in detail. The party is so strong and the patronage so tempting that the republicans have divided into factions. Dave Eastman, former state land commissioner, is the accredited leader of the insurgents or Crawfordites. Members of the Perkins family, Mayor Babcock of Sisseton, Spackman, Harry Morris and others represent the organization, or the "machine."

Some of the leading insurgents were active in pushing Mr. Lien to the front. The state organization thereupon took it to be a movement in the interest of Mr. Crawford and sent Mr. Perkins home to announce his candidacy for secretary of state. Mr. Lien is a straight party man and the friend of the organization, and when its emissary informed him that the faction supporting him intended to line him up with Crawford and make him the insurgent stalking horse he thought it might be true and withdrew his name from further consideration as a state candidate. Later, a delegation of a dozen prominent politicians of the county waited upon him, assured him that they were for him regardless of Crawford and that their chief object was to down Perkins and the faction back of him. With the understanding that he was to make no change in his state-wide alliance, Mr. Lien yielded to this pressure and once more sprang into the arena.

Mr. Lien's position seems to be something like this: The Roberts county delegation will be favorable to the state organization whichever faction controls, the only difference between them being that Mr. Perkins is a candidate simply to capture the delegation, while he is a candidate to capture the nomination.

In spite of such assurances the party leaders will no doubt feel easier if Mr. Perkins wins. He is under obligations to them for the place he now holds and if he plays fair he may continue to hold it. While Mr. Lien himself, on the other hand, may be personally beyond suspicion, part of his following, particularly Dave Eastman, is known to be hostile to the "machine."

Th "machine" is theefore backing Perkins and the pace will be a lively one with the result in doubt. The situation is an annoying one and the organization will no doubt make further efforts to straighten it out.

The dividing line seems clearly drawn in Roberts county so far as the capital removal question is concerned. The supporters of Mitchell say they will have two to one or better against Pierre in the county.

The old-line administration papers have Mr. Crawford buried and buried deep. The Watertown Public Opinion says he will not have one-fourth of the delegates to the state convention. The Huronite, published in Mr. Crawford's home town, estimates his strength at a possible 105 delegates out of about 1,000, and the Aberdeen News says this estimate is probably too high rather than the reverse.

—E. C. Torrey.

Coffee is a very strong antiseptic. There are many diseases the microbes of which are destroyed by it.

# NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

**New Novel by Wealthy New York Society Woman—The Story of an "Easy Hero in Politics, a Book to Which Woman's Suffragists Are Likely to Take Some Exceptions—A Poet's Consideration for Posterity—He Suggests Multiple Manuscripts (Carbon Copies).**

Mrs. Clarence H. Mackey, who was Miss Katherine Duer, a daughter of William A. Duer of New York, is the author of a new novel, "The Stone of Destiny." A German translation of a drama from her pen, "Gabrielle," which appeared last year in the "North American Review," is being prepared for stage-production in Munich.

"The Stone of Destiny" is a romance portraying the love of a man of altruistic views for a beautiful woman of shallow nature, whose love for him is only superficial. He marries her, and they drift apart; eventually the man saves his wife from erring, and lifts her up by his own moral strength.

MRS. CLARENCE H (KATHERINE) MACKAY.
The author of "The Stone of Destiny," Harper & Brothers.

Brand Whitlock has made his "hero" in **Her Infinite Variety** a little "too easy." Almost any variety apparently could fool him, even if he is a state senator; or, perhaps, it is because he is a state senator. At any rate, he is too easy, and readers do not altogether like their heroes made that way. But then Mr. Whitlock wanted a hero on whom he could show the play of womanhood's "infinite variety," and possibly his hero appears somewhat more pliable than he would under other circumstances. But what is any man that he should laugh at another's pliability under such circumstances.

Morley Vernon, the man who faces the infinite variety, is an Illinois state senator from a Chicago district. He is engaged to a young lady of the aristocracy. The first glimpse of him shows him under the spell of Amelia, his fiancee, one variety. The next seen of him is in action as a senator at Springfield. Then another variety takes a turn at him. This variety is a winning woman's suffragist (that's what Mr. Whitlock makes her), and Morley suddenly finds himself on the floor of the senate making a ringing speech for a resolution intended to aid the cause of woman's suffrage. He has exhausted formal and logical arguments, and closes his speech thus, according to the author:

"'Age cannot wither, nor custom stale, her infinite variety.'"

He was growing weary. He had already shown the impressive exhaustion of the peroration. He had sacrificed a collar and drunk all the water in his glass. He fumbled the empty tumbler for a moment, and then lifted it on high while he said:

"'I filled this cup to one made up
Of loveliness alone,
A woman, of her gentle sex
The seeming paragon—
Her health, and would on earth there stood
Some more of such a frame,
That life might be all poetry
And weariness a name.'"

When he had done there was a moment's stillness; then came the long sweep of applause—

Of course all this gets into the papers, the Chicago papers, and the following Wednesday when the resolution is up for final action there comes down to Springfield Mrs. Overman Hodge-Lathrop at the head of a company of women who are opposed to woman's suffrage, (and therein the woman's suffragists will take offense at the book). And Amelia is with them. But Mrs. Overman Hodge-Lathrop is the next shade of the infinite variety to play upon the softness of Morley. But that is the real nut of the story and it won't do to tell. Suffice it to say that Morley is no equal for infinite variety, even when he is confronted by only three variations, especially when confronted by all three at once.

Howard Chandler Christy has drawn the illustrations for the book.

BE KIND TO POSTERITY.

When thousands of guineas are eagerly tossed
For a copyist's copy of "Paradise Lost,"
We geniuses should, when we typewrite our wares,
Slip a carbon sheet in for humanity's heirs.
—B. L. T., in the Reader Magazine for March.

The latest volume in Appleton's "Historic Lives Series" is **James Oglethorpe, the Founder of Georgia.** It is dedicated to the children of Georgia, but it is a book to interest more than the children of that state or of the south even. James Oglethorpe was a man whose works entitled him to be remembered longer and to be known more widely than has been his fate. He was one of the reformers who helped to change the atrocious prison conditions in Great Britain, and as founder of Georgia he opposed the slave trade when all the colonies around him were encouraging it and receiving support from the mother country. The book is by Harriet C. Cooper, is well written, illustrated and attractively bound.

Mrs. George Madden Martin, author of "Emmy Lou," has just sent her new novel to McClure, Phillips & Co. It is a story of the north and the south, and shows the difference in characters between the two peoples that make up the United States. The action takes place on the border line, some years after the civil war.

BOOKS RECEIVED

**HER INFINITE VARIETY.** By Brand Whitlock. With illustrations by Howard Chandler Christy. Decorations by Ralph Fletcher Seymour. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill company.

**JAMES OGLETHORPE, THE FOUNDER OF GEORGIA.** By Harriet C. Cooper. Illustrated. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Price $1 net. Postage 10 cents.

## MINNESOTA POLITICS

**Thomas Lowry Consents to Be Made a Candidate for Delegate at Large—Democrats Discuss Presidential and Governorship Possibilities—Parker Seems the Favorite, Tho Little Is Known About Him—Buckman Is Out in the Open for Dunn.**

Thomas Lowry has made formal statement of his candidacy for delegate at large to the republican national convention.

Mr. Lowry is still in New York. Before leaving he indicated to his friends that he would appreciate such an honor, but that he did not care to make a fight for it. At that time it was understood that Thomas H. Shevlin did not desire to go, and several of Mr. Shevlin's friends then declared themselves in favor of Mr. Lowry. Last Wednesday Mr. Shevlin anounced himself a candidate. Republicans who were not satisfied with Mr. Shevlin as their representative, and preferred Mr. Lowry, were anxious to know just where matters stood. To find out General W. D. Washburn wired Mr. Lowry in New York, saying:

"Many of your friends would like to send you as a delegate at large to the Chicago convention. Have you any objections?"

The reply was as follows:

"W. D. Washburn, Minneapolis—No objections. On the contrary I should be highly pleased if thus honored by the party. —Thomas Lowry."

Mr. Lowry has stated that he would not serve as national committeeman for Minnesota. However, it is a general feeling of republicans who have expressed themselves on the subject, that he is the man to represent the metropolis of the state at the convention, as one of the "big four." His admiration of President Roosevelt has been often expressed, and he is known to be heartily in favor of the president's nomination.

There was a good deal of sentiment at the democratic committee meeting yesterday in favor of sending as delegates to the St. Louis convention the following "big four": John Lind of Minneapolis, T. D. O'Brien of St. Paul, L. A. Rosing of Cannon Falls and Mayor M. B. Cullum of Duluth. This would recognize the only democratic congressman from the state, the national committeeman, the last candidate for governor, and the newly elected democratic mayor of a republican city.

There is little talk of candidates for governor. The leading democrats do not intend to cross that bridge until they come to it. Like Artemus Ward, they are willing to sacrifice any of their wives' relations, but no one so far seen is willing to become a candidate himself. John A. Johnson of St. Peter is a favorite, but has turned it down positively. The same is true of Frank A. Day of Fairmont, C. O. Baldwin of Duluth, H. L. Buck of Winona, Frank D. Larrabee of Minneapolis and others mentioned. L. A. Rosing will not take it under any circumstances.

In groups clustered in corners, there was some discussion yesterday of the possibility of drafting a "liberal republican" to take the nomination. If no one can be found available, it is proposed to name some good clean democrat like Captain Marcus B. Fay of Virginia, who can help out with the campaign fund and keep the party organization going.

While some little Hearst sentiment has been worked up among the Minnesota democrats who are strong Bryan men, the talk of committee members as a rule declared against the "yellow journal" candidate. Democrats of this state do not know much about Judge Parker except by hearsay, but they are inclined to think that he is the man. They believe he is liberal enough to suit the western democracy, and that if the eastern leaders are satisfied with him, he is the man the party can best unite on. The little feeler for Grover Cleveland, thrown out by J. G. Pyle and C. D. O'Brien, roused such a hornets' nest that no further attempt will be made to work the Cleveland boom in Minnesota.

The Ortonville Herald-Star observes:

"The politically wise say that M. J. Downing will have finally made up his mind to enter the congressional race again by the time of the Ortonville convention and that his announcement will be made at about that time."

The Ada Index, published by D. C. Lightbourn, deputy insurance commissioner, and edited by C. E. Ward, of the republican state committee, came out this week for Dunn. Reports from Norman county say that while there is some Dunn sentiment in Ada, both the east and west ends of the county are strong for Collins, and there will be a lively contest.

The Delano Eagle in its usual gentlemanly fashion has entered a denial of the statement made in this column, that Congressman Buckman is for Dunn. Fortunately the congressman is back in Minnesota and has come out plainly, saying he is for Dunn and inviting trouble if the Collins men want it. He said to the Minneapolis Times yesterday evening:

"I am for Dunn for governor. I am not lying down on any of my appointees for the purpose of making them come into line for one candidate or the other, but I want it understood distinctly that I am for Dunn and propose to do all I can for him."

A similar statement appears in the St. Paul Globe this morning.

W. W. Sivright of Hutchinson, the former state senator, who has been mentioned for a delegate to the national convention, was in St. Paul this week attending the hardware convention. He says he is not a candidate for a delegateship, and is too busy attending to his private affairs to mix up in the political game. He has been claimed both for Dunn and Collins, but says he will keep his hands entirely off.

The Union Veterans and Sons' league will meet Saturday evening, March 5, and has invited all three republican candidates for governor to be present on that occasion and declare themselves on the subject of giving preference to old soldiers in appointments, also on the Soldiers' home pension question.

—Charles B. Cheney.

## BURNED THEATERS FOR AMUSEMENT.

While the playhouses of London as a rule give the effect of being unsafe, the lack of easy exit being conspicuous, statistics would seem to show that they are the safest in the world. For considerably more than half a century not a life has been lost in a London theater. That the world progresses is forcibly illustrated by the present strict regulation of theaters as compared with the fact that in the eighteenth century it was one of the regular amusements of the young bloods to set fire to a playhouse. In 1721 a drunken young earl was on the point of firing the Lincoln's Inn theater when the constables arrived. In 1740 it was a marquis who ordered his ragtag and bobtail to burn Drury Lane. And in steady progress in rank, it was the Duke of Cumberland who in 1749 set a mob to fire the Haymarket. They did their best, destroying everything of value and throwing lighted candles on the stage to set fire to the scenery, but the blaze was luckily extinguished.

## THE NONPAREIL MAN

**Staging Around the Minneapolis Postoffice to Be Removed in 1912—Demand for More Winter Leads the Weather Bureau to Add Another Extra Day to February—Amusing Incident in the Senate—Interesting Batch of Washington News and Gossip.**

Washington, Feb. 27.—"The Panama canal will be finished about the time the staging is ordered down from around the Minneapolis postoffice."

I had this important news from a source very close to the president to-day. This authority told me that the naval bureau had a knob who had figured out that the canal would be thru to the Pacific by Jan. 1, 1912. By that time the staging around the Minneapolis postoffice will be ordered down and a new postoffice building will be begun elsewhere.

The naval bureau scoffed at the idea that there were germs in this staging, but promised to have it disinfected at once in the interest of the public health.

**Demand for More Winter.**

So general has the demand been for a little more of this winter that the weather bureau of the war department has been thinking seriously of putting another extra day in February, to be known as Feb. 30. This day would be taken from August next and would lengthen the winter by just that much. There will be much interest and enthusiasm over this matter in Minnesota and the northwest generally. Much credit is due to Representative Adam Bede, who has worked persistently for this popular reform.

**One on the Senate.**

An amusing little incident occurred in the senate yesterday. Senator Pettus of Alabama and Senator Hoar, not knowing that the Panama bill had passed, talked eight hours on the general subject of interoceanic canals. The senate adjourned without doing any business.

A Louisiana strawberry stepped across the Missouri line yesterday and had one of its seeds frostbitten.

Do not neglect to enjoy all the winter sports there are while they last. Only two or three more months of the glorious old season that has only one disadvantage. That is, that the air is so dry that you cannot fully enjoy the brilliant, sparkling cold.

Sometimes the office seeks the man, but not the coal office. It doesn't have to. The man has to hunt that.

Some of the automobile companies now furnish a "guarantee." A man would look nice, wouldn't he, riding home a guarantee when the machine gives up about four miles this side of Shakopee.

Dassel, Minn., is looking for talent. A want ad printed recently says:

BUSINESS LOCATIONS—THERE ARE GOOD openings at Dassel, Minn., for a baker, dentist or milliner. Would prefer people who can play good baseball, lead a band and take active parts in sporting and musical circles. Address, with references, 7725, Journal.

It ought to be a painless dentist to extract the high notes from the band.

The McCordsville, Ohio, Exhumer digs up a most enjoyable bit of winter sport that has twice convulsed McCordsville wits. The Exhumer says:

Some beast in human form wadded Doc Skinner's office keyhole full of wet paper and then telephoned him to hurry out to old "Bill" Jennings and bleed him. When Doc went to his office to get his tools, of course the paper was frozen, and he couldn't get the key in. This is the second time this thing has happened.

We would suggest that Doc, when he leaves the office, hide the keyhole under the mat.

An Austin, Minn., parent confides his griefs to the Austin Herald:

Since little Johnny went to school
And studied under Maxwell's rule,
He's learned to hem and darn and knit
And has a pretty sewing kit.

He's learned to paint a yellow rose
And how to ornament his clothes;
How to make pretty moonlight scenes
By splashing ink on little screens.

You ought to hear how Johnny sings
Those lovely, noisy, Wagner things.
He sings all classic music grand,
Those tuneless things none understand.

When pa comes home from work at night
He teaches Johnny how to write
And how to cipher and to spell,
But what pa says—I shall not tell.

G. B. Harrison, a farmer near Perham, Minn., noted that the state supreme court had ruled that "prairie chickens and other wild game are the property of the state, and laws it may enact in regard to their killing is a legitimate use of power." Applying logic to the situation, Mr. Harrison sent to the fish and game commission a "bill for $54.55 for feed furnished by him from his grain and corn to prairie chickens during the closed season."

The state game and fish commission, applying logic on its side, should return to Mr. Harrison a bill for $55.27 for bugs, snails, chinchbugs and grasshoppers eaten by the state's poultry so as to save Mr. Harrison's crops from destruction.

—A. J. R.

## DINNERS COME LONG DISTANCES

It has been estimated that the average dinner de luxe at Sherry's, in New York, travels 100,000 miles before it finally reaches the table. The ordinary theater supper at the Waldorf travels about 25,000 miles before being served. It will easily be seen how these enormous totals are made up when it is considered that caviare comes from Russia, a distance of 6,000 miles; olives from Italy, about 5,000 miles; salted almonds from Levant, over 10,000 miles, and the coffee from Java, which is half way around the world and probably a distance of 15,000 miles by any route. Nearly all the sauces and relishes come from far distant places, the shellfish, meats, butter, bread and sugar alone being supplied on this side.

## MR. ATKINSON'S SIGNATURE

Tho not so very aged (he is only 77), Edward Atkinson, the noted anti-imperialist, anti-expansionist, economist and inventor of the Aladdin oven, is so feeble that he can no longer write with a pen, but uses a rubber stamp in signing his name. This is done even on checks of small or large amount. As such a signature is not illegal, Mr. Atkinson renders it so by attesting it according to the Bertillon system. He inks the ball of his thumb on a pad and leaves the imprint on the check, as much as to say "Edward Atkinson, his thumb." Bank cashiers in Boston and elsewhere have become familiar with the hair lines of the Atkinsonian thumb, and a piece of paper bearing it is as good as legal tender.

## "JAPS" AND EUROPEAN BOOTS

The newness of European civilization in Japan is amusingly shown in a story recently told by a correspondent of a London paper of having seen the Japanese soldiers in China during the march to Peking carrying their new European boots in their hands and marching sturdily along in their bare feet or in the light straw sandals to which they had been accustomed. The thieving army contractor with his paper soles evidently cannot bring the Japanese army to a standstill. And the matter of commissariat is simple for an army which can march all day on a little cold rice.

## PILGRIMS EXCHANGED GREETINGS

At the recent banquet of the Pilgrims' club in London cable communication was arranged with Delmonico's, New York, while Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, was dining with some friends. A telegraph instrument was placed at each dining-room, friendly greetings being exchanged at intervals thruout the evening.

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