

THE JOURNAL

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The Bonding Privilege.

Secretary Shaw has not decided the question as to whether American millers may mix Canadian with the American wheat imported under bond. He has submitted the question as to its legal phases to the attorney general, but he cites numerous precedents in other lines of manufacture which seem to fully establish the principle which the millers are seeking to have applied to their business by the treasury department.

One of the first and most important duties of the coming season is the adoption of a clear, simple form of constitutional provision fixing the state's power of taxation. Now that it is possible to amend the constitution, it should be done without further delay.

Paul Morton, secretary of the navy, quit his job of drawing plans for new fighting ships long enough yesterday to outline a plan for settling this matter of regulating railroad rates. Morton is a practical railroad man himself.

Whether Mr. Lawson is honest or mercenary in his Wall street upheavals, there is no doubt that a few men with millions of dollars at their disposal have in the market a wonderfully effective machine for long-distance pocket-picking.

A "high Russian official" says that "the Japanese have been stopped"; that the present is their highwater mark. It is suspected in Tokio that Generals Nodsu and Kuroki had several highwater marks yet in reserve.

The magnificent gown worn by Eloise Willard, at the Metropolitan tonight, is an exquisite ruff portraiture, elaborated with a hundred deft touches of naturalness.

Incidentally, the railroad agent is not so much of a story teller as he is a man of skill. A blooded filly of Colonel Blount's has been killed by a train on a road running thru his plantation.

Wharton's first long novel of contemporary American life will begin in the January Scribner's under the title "The House of Mirth." It is said to be a sharp comment on modern social conditions and a serious presentation of their tragic tendencies.

By American mills was an advance today of over a cent in the price of May wheat in the Minneapolis market. Here is a pound of fact worth a ton of theory to the effect that the admission of Canadian wheat under the bonding privilege would reduce the price of our own product on this side of the line.

Appeal is made in the east for a sane Christmas. Buy and buy.

Amendments Easy to Pass.

The separate ballot for constitutional amendments certainly seems to have filled the bill. All the amendments submitted at the recent election were carried, even the doubtful one enabling the legislature to abolish the grand jury system.

It is an irony of fate that deferred the passage of a tax amendment this time. The stormy extra session of 1902 adopted one which was lost at the ensuing election, along with the gross earnings bill, because of general apathy.

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NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

THE UNEASY CHAIR

Life, With Its Joys and Sorrows, Under the Shadow of the Race Problem.—We might as well admit the fact that we of the north, who have never been long enough in the south to come face to face with the more serious aspects of the race problem, know almost nothing about the problem. We read the history of the vigilance committee of the early days in California and we applaud the decision with which the committee carried out drastic measures for the protection of those who sought to be law-abiding but could not because anarchy had for the time displaced the old law and demanded a law more swift and more deadly in its execution, a law before which anarchy had to yield. Emerson Hough's new book, "The Law of the Land," is under the guise of a very interesting story, an appeal for just such an attitude toward the whites of the south, who now and then feel compelled to respond to the demands of the higher law of self-preservation, of necessity, and of a seeming anarchy strike a blow at anarchy itself. The hero of Mr. Hough's book, in pleading in court for the acquittal of a man charged with the murder of several blacks, states the case in part as follows:

Now, I ask whether at the time of the acts charged against Calvin Blount there existed any adequate machinery of the law. I ask you to you that necessity, the greatest I shall name, and in precedent respect by our courts as well, would have overridden even the regular machinery of our law had it been in operation. I submit further to you that no law existed in this country at that time; that the service of the law was a fiction and a dream.

AT THE THEATERS

Metropolitan—Tim Murphy in "When a Man Marries."

There is much truth in old sayings and Tim Murphy elaborated that portion which lies in the Mother Goose doggerel when he presented A. C. Bishop's play, "When a Man Marries," last evening. Given a good-natured man, a mother-in-law, whose every thought is suspicious; an easily influenced wife, a wife's friend, who is a good-natured man, a brother-in-law, who is in love with a chorus girl, and a false friend—and a playwright can weave a tangled web for the good-natured man. The combination of these elements, as Mr. Bishop treats it in rather a commonplace manner. The lines are rather clever, but strong perhaps, but that may give just another reason for their being so.

EMERSON HOUGH.

Recent Picture of the Author of "The Law of the Land."

The provocation under which Blount acted was extreme, there was no recognition of law by the blacks at the time. Were all cases as clear as that there would be little criticism of summary action on the part of the whites acting in self-defense. Let the act of an individual may point to a practical condition of anarchy and insecurity to society, such as demand stringent measures. So far all will agree with Mr. Hough's position, and even further, for we do not understand Mr. Hough to insist on the rule of the higher law to the point of those glacial workings of vengeance which are seen now and then in the torture of perpetrators of nameless crimes. But in the interpretation of the law of necessity there is always danger, especially when the interpretation is undertaken under the white heat of passion, and on that ground some of Mr. Hough's readers will not be ready to accept all that which is inferred from his position, or that of his hero; for it may be assumed that Mr. Hough is merely stating the southern white position rather than his own.

STAND CLEAR!

New York Sun. It is about time for the Baltic fleet to have another try. The admiral must know that the Japanese are looking forward with keen interest to meeting him.

NOT USED TO THE BIRD

Baltimore Sun. Secretary Taft has assured the Panamanians that what they suspected was a vulture is really the dove of peace.

AND YOU CAN'T STOP HIM

Chicago News. Santa Claus is after your money.

WAR TO SEND UP

SEALSKIN PRICES

Canonading Turns Course of Seal Migration—Fewer Sealers Out Next Season.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 15.—War in the far east has turned the course of the seal herd migrations to such an extent that many of the most famous of the Siberian coast rookeries have been abandoned. Noise of the canonading is the primary cause. Due to this and other causes, the catch of the coming season will probably be smaller and prices correspondingly higher.

Wait on Fur Sale.

Until after the annual fall fur sales have taken place in London, on Dec. 16, nothing will be done towards outfitting the Victoria sealing fleet for next season's operations, and then it is altogether probable that hunting will be entirely confined to the American coast, as far north as the Aleutian islands, and to Bering sea. Upon the prices realized at the coming sales will depend the number of the fleet to go out.

Twenty-six schooners sent out in 1903 secured, with "shore" and Cape Horn catches added, 20,470 pelts. In 1902 the number of skins taken was 16,301; in 1901 the total was 24,160 skins; in 1900, 35,548 and in 1899, 35,471.

Higher Prices Expected.

There will be fewer skins on the market this fall than usual, in view of the partial abandonment of the Cape Horn and Falkland Island grounds by sealers, and of the interference which the war has been to the Japanese industry, but prices are expected to rule higher than in other years, so that if expectations are realized those in the business will have little cause for complaint. The Copper Island catches, it will be noticed, have been very small, and the most valuable for anywhere found is that which has been the most plentiful. Among the catches a small number of branded skins are seen this year than for many seasons, showing that those animals that were tortured a few years ago for identification are rapidly dying off.

Neither Simpson, Robinson or Ver-

bloom, the three injured ones, was hurt seriously. Their bodies and legs and arms were cut, and Robinson's face was torn; but they will all be out of the hospital soon. Simpson has been in the service thirty-two years.

FIRE HORSE DIES

ANSWERING GONG

Old Pet of the Firemen, Mortally Hurt, Vainly Strives to Rise.

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—Fire Engine No. 11, drawn by its famous old horse, Bill and Jim, was speeding down South street to a fire in the uncertain light of dawn yesterday, when suddenly, just as it got to a place where a pile of iron girders on one side and a stack of lumber on the other prevented its driver from turning out of the trolley car, also going at full speed, shot out from behind the corner of Sixth.

Tried to Warn Them.

In the last desperate two seconds then, Patrolman Hanly tried to warn the engine driver, but it was right between the obstructions. It couldn't turn aside, and it couldn't have stopped in time. The engine's pole ripped thru first on the side, then the other of the car body, literally imploding the trolley, and hurling it yards off its rails. Poor Bill and Jim smashed against the car's side, and the tremendous weight of their engine jammed forward against them. They were cut and torn frightfully.

Bill's Last Call.

A pitiful sight was that of the two big horses, lying in a pool of blood. Jim, the bay, was killed outright. Bill, the beloved black of the team, when the engine was backed from his body, appeared to be gasping his last. But he wasn't quite dead, and didn't die for a long while, and when an hour later the hose cart, returning from the fire, passed the spot where he lay, he figured in an incident that wet the eyes of many men in the crowd about the corner.

HYPNOTISM

Austin (Tex.) Statesman. Motor cars in the west are reported to "hypnotize" birds to such an extent that they fly directly against the cars and are killed. A number of people seem to get hypnotized the same way.

SAN FRANCISCO RAISES

MONUMENT TO MCKINLEY



San Francisco, Dec. 15.—A magnificent monument to President McKinley was unveiled in this city on Thanksgiving Day. The monument stands to the left of the entrance to the park, and is a woman's figure in bronze, towering fifteen feet from the pedestal of granite, the top of which is twenty feet above ground.