

THE JOURNAL

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Smooth Senator Horton. "Yes, they say some pretty hard things about me; but you never heard any one say I was a fool, did you?"—Ben Butler.

Whatever one may say or think about Hiler H. Horton of St. Paul, it must be freely admitted that he is a very clever person. Who but Hiler could have railroaded that bill thru the senate last night, with thirty-five votes out of thirty-nine, as an "emergency measure"?

After all the newspaper ventilation of the bill, the senators sat last evening with open mouths and swallowed every word of Horton's mellifluous periods. They accepted his statement that the bill creating a \$3,000 job for his friend Seabury was an "emergency measure."

Why didn't he make it \$10,000? The building cost several millions, and no one is going to haggle over a few peacocks thousands. What's \$7,000 between friends?

Of course an emergency exists. The capitol should be run on business principles, with a definite appropriation and careful supervision. The legislature should define its status right away. But while passing a bill, the members might as well pass one of the right sort. It would not take any longer to meet the emergency in that way than it does with the Horton bill.

The state board of control occupies rooms on the ground floor of the building. It is a non-political business board, created expressly to run state business and state buildings with economy and good judgment. Is there any good reason why this board should not be charged with the care of the building it occupies?

While dealing with an emergency, the legislature is also settling an important problem. When the capitol commission has finished its work, some one else must run the building, either a separate commission, the governor, or the board of control. An act giving the building in charge of the board of control would settle the question now and for all.

Mr. Horton's bill goes into the house today. There is no Horton in the house, and if the doorkeepers do their duty and exclude the hypnotic influence of the gentleman from Ramsey, the house members may do a little business with the emergency themselves.

Not only is this weather glorious but there is enough of it to go around.

The Chicago Grain Trade. That Chicago is determined, at any cost, to maintain her prestige as a grain market, may be judged from the fact that her Board of Trade is moving for the repeal of the anti-option law. Until today the matter of alleged rate discrimination against Chicago was the only cry. With it is now heard the complaints of that element in the grain trade whose activities are confined to the trading room floor, or the pit.

They are not doing enough business. The Chicago board was, some time ago, the leader in the fight against bucketshops. Minneapolis fought them at the same time. Here the opposition to them has been allowed to become quiet. Chicago has now gone farther and seeks the repeal of a law passed to strike the bucketshops, but now found upon strict interpretation to militate against the interests of the Board of Trade as well.

Probably no question of a commercial nature has been so often passed upon by the courts, with so little of definiteness as a result. When a decision was obtained, some two years ago, to the effect that the quotations originating upon the floor of an exchange are the private property of that exchange, and may be retained or sold at its pleasure, it was thought that the larceny resulting from the use of them by firms or individuals obtaining them surreptitiously, would enable the regular boards to crush out the "shops."

But this was a mistake, for again the question of just what constitutes a "bucketshop" came up, and that a firm, not a member of a regular exchange, is a "bucketshop," seems a hard thing to prove to the satisfaction of the courts.

With all the Chicago complaint, nothing is heard of the matter of privilege trading. This is so sore a point with Chicago that she does not like it mentioned. Several years ago the Illinois legislature passed a law making it illegal to deal in privileges, or what are commonly known as "puts and calls," in that state. This was to knock out an evil. Chicago had a spasm of virtue, and plumed herself not a little. The result of it was that more "futures" were traded in here, for people would continue buying and selling privileges, and as they could not do

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it in Chicago they sent their orders to Minneapolis. Chicago saw this with alarm. Heroic measures were necessary, lest Minneapolis should gain something. There was no law in Wisconsin preventing trading in privileges, and so the big Chicago firms, mainly to check Minneapolis, came up to Milwaukee and revived that long-dormant market, and traded there. It had the effect of putting a slight, temporary check upon Minneapolis, but it availed Chicago little.

Now Chicago has been thru a bad year and she is looking around for reasons. She is dissatisfied and would like a return to old conditions when she dominated; when no other grain market moved but to follow her; when, if she closed for a day, other exchanges did nothing. These conditions are not likely to return.

The sum of it is that, however Chicago may try to conceal her actions behind charges of rate discrimination, or move for repeal of anti-bucketshop laws, the basis of it all is jealousy of other growing grain-trading centers, principally Minneapolis.

George Sutherland has been nominated for senator by one Utah party. How many, George?

Board of Control's Report. The state board of control has passed the experimental stage in Minnesota. The board has just transmitted its first report, covering a full biennial period, and the showing made is calculated to disarm criticism. It is plain that the board has kept the per capita cost of running the state institutions down to the old level in the face of increasing prices, while wages of employees have been increased and the inmates have been well cared for. The humanitarian side of the question can no longer be used as an effective argument against the board, and appears to have been dropped by its critics.

The recommendations of the board have more interest than the former separate boards ever could command. The local boards spoke as attorneys making special pleas for their clients. The board of control is obliged to be impartial and to keep requests for new buildings and improvements down to a figure that will be economical. Its estimates for the several institutions naturally forecast the appropriation bill adopted later by the legislature.

From a local standpoint the university has not fared as well as its friends would like. The amount named for the new main building will not construct such a building as the institution needs.

The report contains some meritorious suggestions, and others that are plainly open to question. The board takes issue with Governor Johnson, who, in his message, favored increasing the capacity of the prison twine plant so as to occupy all the prison labor.

The report of the board says the present capacity should be the maximum on account of the danger that exists of getting "squeezed" in the fiber market. It seems that the interests of Minnesota farmers should be considered to the extent of taking the risk, and if necessary, insuring against it by a reserve fund.

The plan of county support for the insane is an old one, heretofore given scant consideration in the legislature. It works successfully in many states, and seems a practical proposition. Its real intent is to charge one-half the cost of caring for inmates to their relatives, if there are any in condition to contribute. Otherwise the half will be paid by the counties, the remaining half being paid by the state.

The board recommends abolishing all special levies and standing appropriations for the institutions. This would require them all to go before the legislature at each session for every cent to be expended. The danger of this lies in the "logrolling" which is likely to shut some institutions out of needed funds. The special levy for the university, which last year produced \$108,259.72 of the \$481,136.20 received by the institution, is a splendid bulwark of protection.

Two years ago the board asked to be relieved of its supervision over the university and normal schools. This time the board refrains from any recommendation, and apparently, its attitude has somewhat changed. It coincides with Governor Van Sant in urging the abolition of the local boards at Paribault and Owatonna.

Several improvements in equipment are urged that carry their own recommendation. This includes the request for nurses' dormitories at the insane hospitals, for a special department to care for tuberculous patients, and for a quarantine hospital to save an entire institution from quarantine in case of an outbreak. On the separate training school for girls the board is warranted in taking its strong ground, urging that the new school be created or the present one adjacent to the boys' school be abolished. The board should also be headed in its request for a law prohibiting the sale of liquors to paroled prisoners. In most cases where paroled men fall from grace, their acts are traced to a convivial spree with old comrades.

Premier Combes' Retirement. Dr. Combes, the French premier, made such a record of decreasing majorities in the French chamber of deputies on Saturday, that he has announced his purpose of retiring from the arena, where he has held a radical majority of from 70 to over 100 since June, 1902. He succeeded the ministry of the late M. Waldeck-Rousseau, radical also, but not as extreme as the Combes ministry, and in power for four years.

During the last ten years France has had a radical cabinet, under M. Bourgeois, which lasted less than a year and was succeeded by a moderate republican administration under M. Meline, which, after less than two years, was defeated and was followed by the radical ministry of M. Brisson in 1898. The general election then showed large radical and socialist gains, but the Brisson ministry fell in October, after five months of power. The Dupuy ministry of "republican concentration" took a turn of seven months, when the Wal-

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deck-Rousseau ministry of "republican defense" took the reins and faced the strenuous efforts of the enemies of the republic to disturb the existing regime, basing their endeavors upon the agitation of clerical, anti-Semites and the pronounced supporters of the defunct monarchy. Waldeck-Rousseau preserved peace in France and began the enforcement of the law of religious associations, which compelled the religious orders to obtain authorization in due form from the government.

When Waldeck-Rousseau resigned voluntarily in June, 1902, the radical element in the chamber was strong and the cabinet was held in check by him, and four years of radical direction had not injured France as predicted.

Premier Combes retained three members of the Waldeck-Rousseau cabinet, Andre Delcasse and Mongeot, and among his pledges he said the government would administer the religious associations law with "firmness." This he did by enforcing it in a way M. Waldeck-Rousseau declared he never intended; Combes had exceeded the spirit of the law. The drastic policy, however, was sustained by a large majority whenever an appeal was made to the chamber, and the expulsion of the religious orders and breaking up of clerical schools for the purpose of nationalizing education, brought about collision with the Vatican.

Diplomatic relations have been severed with the Vatican and the concordat has been practically abolished, although Combes declared in January, 1903, that the government favored the maintenance of the pact.

It was the purpose of the Combes ministry to complete the separation of church and state in France, and the Vatican has been taking steps to meet such possible change. The Combes majority, which has all along supported this purpose, may continue to do so and yet the fickleness of French politics and instability of party majorities are such as to require an interrogation mark over the present situation. A radical ministry, under such restraint as was exercised by the late Waldeck-Rousseau, is more probable than any other. M. Brisson, president of the chamber, may be called upon to form a new cabinet. As far back as 1885 he was a strong advocate, with Jules Ferry, of the separation of church and state. M. Rouvier, who is prominently mentioned, has made a consistent record as an aggressive member of the extreme left in the chamber, ever since 1871, and has been in two or three cabinets, notably that of Jules Ferry, and he has been finance minister of the Combes cabinet.

The Faribault Pilot wants R. C. Dunn or Joel Heatwole to write the history of the last campaign and thinks that facts valuable to history will be lost if they do not do so. Undoubtedly, but why not appoint them both as a committee of two to collaborate on the work?

Expert Testimony at New Ulm. Handwriting experts have clogged the courts for a long time. They were very numerous in the celebrated Colton forgery case tried in Minneapolis some years ago. In that case they made valiant but futile efforts to prove that the defendant wrote the signatures in certain deeds. The experts on the other side, with equal force and cunning, proved that the signatures were written by the aged prosecuting witness. The result was such a deadlock that the jury disagreed and it was never ascertained who wrote the signatures or whether they were written at all. Some people are of the opinion that they were not, but, like Topsy, "jest grewed."

Some years later, handwriting fiends got into the Molyneux case and succeeded in swearing so strongly to his chirography that he nearly went to the electric chair as the result. Now comes the New Ulm case, and the jury is confronted with two kinds of perplexing expert testimony. Not only is the handwriting man there, with his shadings, his upstrokes and his other deliriums, but they have brought in typewriter experts who are writing pieces on machines in court and holding forth an alignment, tone of certain letters and other matters that must make the jury feel like breaking out in wrath.

Very little of such evidence is worth the time it takes to give it. Molyneux is the only man convicted upon expert testimony, and the higher court saw the injustice and danger of it and sent the case back, with the result that he is today a free man.

The action of the senate in taking the control of the new capitol out of the hands of the governor because he happens to be a democrat and creating a new office of custodian at a salary of \$3,000 a year will not have the effect of making the senate appear any better before the people of the state. In the first place, it is small partisanship to establish a new rule about the custody of the capitol because the governor happens to be of a different party from that of the majority of the senate. In the second place, the salary of \$3,000 for custodian of the building is ridiculously and wastefully large. Three thousand dollars is more than is paid to the commissioner of labor; as much as the salary of the superintendent of all the schools of the state; and is within \$600 of the salary of the state auditor, who, in a sense, is responsible for all the property of the state. Fifteen hundred dollars would be a big salary for the job, and everybody knows it.

A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota senate aiming to abolish the railroad pass evil. There is no doubt it would be of public advantage if officials did not accept such a bribe from the transportation companies. That system will be ended some day, but the custom is now rather strongly established in Minnesota.—Little Falls Transcript.

Never put off till tomorrow what can be done today.

About everybody in the east seems to agree that Connecticut's new republican senator is about everything that a senator should not be.

The Delaware legislature is balloting away like mad. There is a strong odor of gas about but no leaks have been discovered.

James Jeffrey Roche, the poet, has been appointed consul to Genoa. The president is slowly disposing of the literary surplus.

NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

THE UNEASY CHAIR. More Jerome-K. Jeromes.—Non-sensical Wisdom on Several Subjects.—"What do you think about American wives?" asked "The Uneasy Chair" the other night of the little ivory god on the handle of his book-knife and The Chair jerked his head toward Jerome K. Jerome's American Wives and Others, to indicate the source of his thought. "They're the best given," exclaimed the ugly little idol with an occasional air that almost belied his ivory constitution. "It's a god that speaks, remember; therefore And that was all the oriental idol, far from home, would say, the pressed for reasons. He seemed to regard it beneath the dignity of his station to give reasons for a fact so patent. And his position seems to have the approval of Mr. Jerome, for the latter says, in his own humorous way, speaking of the American wife: "If the American husband only knew how really nice the American wife was, he would sell his business and come over here, where now and then he could see her."

That beauty should ever become a handicap to an actress seeking recognition for her histrionic abilities seems improbable. It is rather to be presumed that the item of personal loveliness would form a most important asset. And yet Maxine Elliott has found it difficult to get her public to accept her as anything more than a beautiful woman. It was her beauty that first made her famous and won her stage recognition. It gave her a prominence that she has never been able to maintain since she has achieved her small achievement of the real work of the stage. This was a real misfortune to a woman possessing Miss Elliott's artistic temperament and capacity for hard work and ambition, success in her chosen profession. At last, however, Miss Elliott appears as a star in a play that gives her opportunity to demonstrate her worth and competence, and to show her ability to impersonate.

While she will never storm the heights of tragedy nor sweep along with the torrents of passion, Miss Elliott is charming in her impersonation of the girl who is sincere in the depiction of a simple, loyal, lovable woman. She betrays a buoyancy of spirits which she had not hitherto been suspected of. It is rather dangerous for so much beauty to be in the hands of a girl as public, but she accomplishes the difficult feat gracefully. Perhaps the best touch in her impersonation is the radiant joy which she shows at the return of her soldier confidant, in which the absent soldier confesses his love for her, arrives. Nothing else in all the world matters then—and Miss Elliott touches every heart with some of the gladness that irradiates from her own. The sincerity of her work throughout, held in leash by an admirable restraint, comes as a revelation to those who have seen her in the days of her starriness with Nat Goodwin.

The play is rather better than the average of Clyde Fitch's output of recent years. It is a strain of his old-fashioned, strange effects which has so often led to his versatile and clever, but seldom convincing playwright into absurdities. The opening children's play party scene furnishes the inevitable Fitch surprise, but it is remarkably well carried out and seems natural enough. The ruin wrought by the speculating mania is the main theme, and it is getting to be a cliche in this case by the plan of an unscrupulous young operator to win the girl he wants by ruining her brother and family thru unwise speculation. His belief that when a girl of resources will fall naturally into his arms is, of course, founded on a misapprehension of her character and equally, of course, she has "her own way" in the end. This all sounds trite enough, but Mr. Fitch has brought all his ingenuity into play in working out an entirely original and successful treatment. He has introduced some types of character of the New York society which are so well, and has made them reveal their vanity, insincerity and avarice in that lightly cynical way of his which makes even the very plainest of his characters so interesting.

The character are without exception admirably vitalized by the fine company provided for Miss Elliott. There is the silly, mercenary little society mother who realizes that the accuracy of her own play to the life by Fannie Addison Pitt. There is her shallow, selfish but not bad-at-heart daughter, by Nelle Thorn. There is the unucky husband of the daughter, who cannot keep out of his own street as long as there is a cent left in his own fortune or those under his control. The characterization by R. C. Herz is one of the most notable in the production, since it is that most difficult of achievements—a strong picture of a weak man. James Carey's portrait of the rich, shrewd young westerner who studies the situation of the weak man (Miss Elliott) is a striking one, full of western color overlaid with the sordid hues that obtain in financial New York. Charles Cherry plays the young man who is a soldier in the Philippines in many fashions. The real comedy hit of the piece, however, is furnished by "George Lawrence as the general, who is a soldier in the Philippines and who is a soldier in the same way as May Irwin's.

Orpheum—Vaudeville. To vivacious Josephine Sabel falls the honor of furnishing the bright spot in the Orpheum entertainment this week. She carries off the laurels without extreme effort, as the week's bill is not up to the standard of the popular playhouses. Miss Sabel's singing and imitations are given with characteristic gusto, and her act winds up with the enticing of the gallery into a "whistling bee."

Newell and Niblo play the saxophones, violin and xylophone with an impressive and a colored entertainer, who sings songs of his own composition. They are filled with the logic and the bathos of the old-fashioned minstrel show. La Foe and his company of Chinese jugglers and tumblers present nothing new save the plate twirling of two unblinded performers. The continual rattling gives an impression of general celestic profanity, and if this is well-grounded the young man in the lavender pajamas has much to answer for. Ching's magic is about as crude as that of Elmer the Great.

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Unique—Vaudeville. A well-balanced program of good variety is presented at the Unique this week. Several of the performers have been seen in their other acts, and are as popular as ever. Chief of the old-timers is John A. West, the "musical Brownie," who has appeared in the same act for seven years, but who always brings a good list of catchy songs and new jokes. His musical numbers are unusually good this year.

Two comedy sketches by Charles and Minnie Barrows and by Post and Clinton take well, and the Brothertits have an excellent comedy acrobatic turn. George MacCauley's illustrated songs make their usual hit, and the Rocco and Rocco duo take the vaudeville list with a clever turn.

A portion of the "Parsifal" moving pictures are presented at the close of the performance. The orchestra numbers accompany it to a good idea of the original production.

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AT THE THEATERS

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CITY NEWS

EAST SIDE GRADE GRABS THEY WILL HOLD THEIR GRADUATION EXERCISES NEXT THURSDAY MORNING. Graduates of the East Side High School will hold their exercises Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the assembly hall of the East High school. The program will be: Solo, "The Star Spangled Banner," Louise Pearce Original Stories—"Being a Hunter," William Charfield; "When Mother is Away," Hildegarde Halverson; School Chorus Reading, "The White Ship," Arthur Christoffersen; Frank Bryant, Eva Tallier, Hazel Donaldson; Song—"Hark, Hark, the Lark," "The Fairies," "The Star Spangled Banner," School Chorus Presentation of diplomas. The graduates are the following: Hazel Ahlstrom, Warren Amy, Alf Anderson, Ella Anderson, Nina Anderson, William Anderson, Edith Anderson, Gustie Beasly, Carl Berglund, Charlotte Blair, Arthur Blotcher, Gladys Brown, Frank Bryant, Mabel Carls, Grace Collett, Margaret Day, William Gustafson, Arthur Christoffersen, Martha Connell, Paul Corbett, Margherite Corcoran, William Gustafson, Hazel Donaldson, Stanley Douglas, Aida Eastman, Hildegarde Halverson, Bertha Ellison, Alfred Higbee, Sarah Holton, Erling Hansen, Mildred Hench, Florence Holmquist, Nora Johnson, Mabel Jorgensen, Edna Kallander, Agnes Johnson, Adah Kerr, Mary Reichard, Douglas Knox, Helen Krogstad, Mildred Lauritzen, Chester Larson, Edna Lauritzen, Freda Freeman, Gertrude Lovg, Herbert Lee, Agnes Larsen, Mabel Larson, Edna Lott, Lottie McKay, Lillian McLaughlin, Harry Moore, Adelaide Moots, Edna Morris, Edna Myra, Anna Nelson, Anna L. Nelson, Edna Nelson, Wm. Nendick, Nellie Nielson, Olander, Adolph Olson, Sverdrup Olson, May Peterson, Mabel Peterson, Picked, Beville Rankin, Lillian Rhodes, Mary Etna Richardson, Rose, Lena Sorenson, Edna Ward Lauritzen, Freda Freeman, Gertrude Lovg, Herbert Lee, Agnes Larsen, Mabel Larson, Edna Lott, Lottie McKay, Lillian McLaughlin, Harry Moore, Adelaide Moots, Edna Morris, Edna Myra, Anna Nelson, Anna L. Nelson, Edna Nelson, Wm. Nendick, Nellie Nielson, Olander, Adolph Olson, Sverdrup Olson, May Peterson, Mabel Peterson, Picked, Beville Rankin, Lillian Rhodes, Mary Etna Richardson, Rose, Lena Sorenson, Edna Ward Lauritzen, Freda Freeman, Gertrude Lovg, Herbert Lee, Agnes Larsen, Mabel Larson, Edna Lott, Lottie McKay, Lillian McLaughlin, Harry Moore, Adelaide Moots, Edna Morris, Edna Myra, Anna Nelson, Anna L. Nelson, Edna Nelson, Wm. 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