

THE JOURNAL

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A Practical Reform.

Elmer E. Adams of Ferguson Falls, who runs a print shop of his own, has introduced a bill in the house to abolish the state printing commission and give the board of control the letting of all state printing contracts.

It will be hard to find a sound argument against this bill. The work already being done against it by the heads of certain prominent St. Paul printing companies is an eloquent argument in its favor.

The history of the printing commission shows that there has never been any effort to break a combination of bidders by readvertisement. If the system is not changed there is no telling when the combination will again get a monopoly on the fat pastures.

The board of control has a record for bringing combinations to time. If given the supervision of the printing contracts, there is good reason to believe they could save money on paper now being paid. If required to make bids on printing public, so as to satisfy everyone as to the justice of the award, the board of control ought to give satisfaction as managers of the state printing.

Not Square.

The defenders of private banking in Minnesota are not square. They are trying to cloud the issue in this matter of banking legislation by seeking to make it appear that the demand that all private banks shall be incorporated and subjected to the same regulations now imposed on state banks comes from corporations, and that the controversy now on in the senate is really between the big incorporated banks and individuals acting as bankers.

That is a misstatement of facts. Some votes in the senate may be deflected on that ground, but the defense will not stand. Those who advise is good on this subject if not that of the solid, substantial banking institutions themselves? If they want all banking to be done on the only basis that is reasonably safe and sound, why should the public be willing to put up with lax and unsound methods? Who is going to profit more by sound banking than the general public?

Notice should be taken also of the fact that along with the demand that all private banks be required to incorporate is the recommendation to the legislature by the state bankers themselves that sufficient money be appropriated at this time to enable the bank examiner to examine state banks at least twice a year. The appropriation now provides for only one examination annually.

It is easy to create prejudice in some minds against any measure by claiming that it is in the interest of corporations, and that is why this argument is resorted to by the private bankers; but the more the condition of the depositor in the private bank becomes understood, the more apparent it will be that this demand for incorporation is altogether in his interest.

This is not so. The incorporated bank is an institution by itself, liable for no one's obligations but its own. Stockholders of the incorporated bank may become ever so heavily involved, their liability, if the bank has been properly conducted, will not affect the bank and the depositors' interests are not jeopardized.

Wisconsin has been all thru this fight and found right here at this point the absolute necessity of protecting depositors by refusing to permit any institution not incorporated to do a banking business. Minnesota, if the credit of her banking institutions is to be maintained, will have to do the same thing.

Senator Warner of Missouri claims to have spent only \$29.80 in his campaign. Isn't he afraid some of the other senators will look upon him as a cheap scab?

Peculiarity of the Wheat Situation.

Outdoing the old saw of carrying coals to Newcastle, the biscuit trust has bought in Liverpool, some 20,000 barrels of flour, for shipment to one of its eastern bakeries. This is the fourth report of the extraordinary sort concerning the matter of supplies of breadstuffs, the three former having to do with the reimportation of American wheat, sold originally to continental Europe. The flour bought by the biscuit company is an American product, made on the Pacific coast, from Oregon or Washington wheat, sold to Liverpool and shipped there, but not unloaded from the ship.

So great has been the advance in wheat and flour prices, and so wide are the differences between American and European markets, that it is now found cheaper to buy this flour and bring it back to America than to buy flour of corresponding grade made by Ohio or central states mills. The flour coming back to America does not have to pay duty, being American product.

These trade occurrences that are so far out of the ordinary as to draw attention to the world over, are due to the high prices of wheat in our markets. When something of the sort is reported it becomes at once an argument for price reduction.

Still it is even yet an open question as to whether or not wheat prices are to decline much, altho it is a question that ought to be nearer its answer soon, for as spring draws on the situation not only as to supplies of old wheat, but as to the coming winter wheat crop, will become clearer.

Meanwhile our wheat prices are about 15 cents higher than a year ago, and with early indications favorable for new crops many traders feel bearish. On the other hand, one can easily figure out a shortage of 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 bushels of wheat by putting on the one side all the wheat in sight in Minneapolis and the northwest, and on the other hand the requirements of the Minneapolis and country mills if they grind at the usual rate until the next crop comes in. It is a situation of uncertainty, and full of possibilities either way, which accounts for the extreme nervousness of the market and the unsettled prices now ruling.

"When We Dead Awake," Ibsen's weird play which has just been put on in New York, is doing pretty well there, but its real triumph is expected in Philadelphia. A Standard Oil director is quoted as saying that Kansas will have to expend \$20,000,000 in order to get into the oil business. Well, what is the use? Does the Rockefeller crowd think that Kansas hasn't the \$20,000,000 to spend?

And what was \$20,000,000 to the cost of the Standard Oil company? It is freely paid by Kansas to keep its map clear of the dark blot of human slavery? The Rockefellerers are so besotted by their lust for gain that they imagine everybody else is infected with their servile idolatry for money. They weigh and measure everything in the world by the dollar, and even stinging their "nasty and ill-fitting" riches at temples dedicated to spiritual uses.

It is not to be supposed that the Rockefellerers can grasp or understand the sentiment which places freedom far above all the money in the world and which makes it worth the offering of blood if necessary—but Kansas has it. United States Consul Ayme, who was on the island of Martinique at the time of the eruption of Mont Pelee, states that the overturning was in some sense a means of prosperity to the people outside of the doomed city. He says: The catastrophe wiped out every single paper and admission of indebtedness, and cleared the slate of all debts. So that there was no means for any creditor to collect a debt. All the debtors on the island, and most of the people outside of St. Pierre, were more or less in debt at the time, suddenly found themselves free. But what the eruption did not destroy was the large store of specie and metallic wealth in the bank vaults in the houses of the wealthy at St. Pierre, and all this came into the possession of the surviving inhabitants of the island, so that they were really much better off than before the eruption.

and the platform. Their antagonistic appearance on Jefferson day is but the entering wedge of another split in the poor old democracy. Mayor Dulin of Noblesville, Ind., has threatened to "pull" card parties, at which prizes are given, and it would be just the luck of the fellow with the booby prize to draw first place in the wagon.

Raising Legislators' Pay.

Why should members of the house be afraid to vote for the bill giving legislators a salary of \$500 a year? It does not apply to the present term, and in 1906 there will be a free field for election to both branches and the resulting \$1,000 of emolument. Personal delicacy ought not to enter into the consideration of the case. It is false modesty for a member to vote no because he might be re-elected. The proper assumption for each man is that he will not return.

The main question is, should members get more pay? No one who has served thru a session of the legislature will contend that \$500 is sufficient compensation for the time taken out of his life and his regular duties at home. Leaving out the months spent in campaigning for the place, the time spent in preparation before he takes his seat, and the thousand annoyances the position entails, the money now paid is not sufficient for the services of a good man during the session. A man who is worth sending to the legislature is worth more than \$500 to the state.

Another strong argument for the bill is that a fixed compensation would result usually in shorter sessions. At present, under the per-diem system, the tendency is to loaf during the early part of the session and drag out the full ninety days, so as to get the maximum pay. If nothing was to be gained by prolonging the session, work would be pushed more actively from the start, and the normal session could be adjourned earlier, saving part of the extra salary paid to members in the smaller payroll for employees and the reduction in other expenses.

When Chairman Dowling finishes his self-appointed task of vindicating everybody in sight, will not some good, kind person try the vindication of Dowling? A Wise Remark by Roosevelt. The president has added materially to his list of useful sayings by the remark made to a delegation of labor men at the White House a short time ago. "Mediation before a strike," he said, "is better than arbitration afterward."

The sound sense of this ought to commend itself to every labor leader. Few strikes are completely successful. When the results of the partially successful strike are summed up, it seldom appears that anything better in terms has been secured than could have been obtained by a proper application of the safe of mediation in advance. Does the statistics of strikes so far as they have been kept have proven them to be a most expensive luxury both for labor and capital.

You may know that they are getting excited down in the southwest when the usually conservative Kansas City Star breaks out in this tone of voice: A Standard Oil director is quoted as saying that Kansas will have to expend \$20,000,000 in order to get into the oil business. Well, what is the use? Does the Rockefeller crowd think that Kansas hasn't the \$20,000,000 to spend?

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The publication of Dr. Wet Mitchell's new novel just after his 75th birthday calls attention to the fact that American authors have been long-lived. Dr. Holmes attained the age of 85; Whittier and Harriet Beecher Stowe died at 84; Bryant at 83; Emerson 78; Irving 73; Longfellow 75. Of authors still living some have already passed all the above figures. No, we do not know Laura Jean Libbey's age. Whatever it is it is too much.

at least two months." We certainly do not want the code adopted without careful consideration, but Senator Somerville's statement is evidence that it has not been so considered. The czar's great-uncle, Kronstantin, once said, "I detest war; it spoils an army." That is right. An army should be maintained at immense cost for emperors and their brothers to play with. But to have it all broken up and killed off seems a needless waste.

Julius Verne regrets that he has never taken a place in French literature. And yet how easy it would have been. All he had to do was to break up a happy home by means of a villain with a cork-screw mustache. Sir Hiram Maxim thinks he has solved the flying machine problem. His new air motor is about ready to make its initial trip. This, and other reasons, will prevent some of us from buying automobiles this year.

An Easter bonnet dispute came into court in London and the court decided that \$1.80 was enough for a man to pay for his wife's Easter headpiece. This is where wife and justice will be in conflict. Adrian Constantine Anson tried to make a speech the other night in Chicago, and when he passed for a word a rooster in the gallery shouted "Silde, you big Swede." Anse quit in disgust. Los Angeles announces that its building permits for March will reach \$1,000,000. Los Angeles is the little Minneapolis of the Pacific coast.

An Alaskan glacier moves about three inches a year, thereby setting a good example to the senate. Buffalo Bill can now appreciate the feelings of a man who has been run over by a sprinkling cart. Hot winds are preparing to get this crop of wheat speculators right in the milk. BOOK NEWS AND GOSSIP. THE UNEASY CHAIR. HOW A CUNEAS BECAME ACQUAINTED AND FELL IN LOVE WITH HER HUSBAND. A delightful little love story of the days of William of Orange is My Lady Cuneas, "being the true story of the Earl of Cuneas and Lady Elizabeth Spencer," by Mary Imlay Taylor.

Lady Elizabeth and her betrothed to the earl when she was 11 and he was 15. They had immediately been parted, and for fourteen years she had neither seen nor heard from him. He was a Jacobite. Sweet Lady Betty one day met by accident an Irish gentleman just from France who knew the earl, then clever Cupid began to use the tangled web of his own measure of things years before and to weave them anew, according to a pattern of his own choosing, and the story of it all is a sparkling fiction. One gets a glimpse at the sparkles from this, the Irish gentleman and Lady Elizabeth conversing: "He is a proscribed exile, madam, this kind of years has excepted him from the Tower and the block, but, after all, to lose a head is less than to lose a life."

Lady Betty sighed, and said: "Only one can recover a head," she said wretchedly, "but a head is not a head, and a head is not a head." "No, I'm admitted," but, after all, one can die but once. "I have loved many times," suggested Betty, "I have heard that my Lord Cuneas's heart is tender." "My dear," he replied with cool mendacity, "his heart is made for one image only, and would keep that image."

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NEW BIBLE DICTIONARY IN PREPARATION.—The Standard Bible dictionary, to be issued in a large single volume of about 700,000 words. This is to be prepared under the editorial supervision of Dr. W. J. Van Dusen, dean of Hartford Theological seminary and professor of New Testament literature; Edward E. Nourse, professor of biblical theology in the same seminary; and Andrew C. Zeno, professor of ecclesiastical history in McCormick Theological seminary, Chicago—men of wide and varied attainments. The dictionary will be the best scientific biblical learning of the age. In association with them as contributors to the articles will be American and German scholars of high standing. Professor Nourse was for a time a student at Macalester college.

CHOPIN'S WORKS THRU A HANDBOOK.—G. C. Ashton Johnson has compiled A Handbook of Chopin's Works. It is "for the use of concert-goers, pianists and piano-players." The author is a student of the "Badeker," a guide thru the "Thoughtland and Dreamland" of Chopin's kingdom. The main portion of the book is devoted to the analysis of the composition, its relative place among Chopin's works, its distinguishing features, and the use of some special points of interest. The book is a valuable addition to the comments or criticisms that have been made upon it by all the great writers, critics, biographers and virtuosi who have written about Chopin and his works. It is a book that will be appreciated not only by musicians, but by music-lovers, and will contribute to their enjoyment of Chopin. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, \$1.40 net.

NO MORE DANTE OR MICHAEL ANGELO.—Very charmingly and with a criticism of literature as it is today are written by Henry Mills Alden in the Editor's Study of Harper's Magazine. In the April number, Mr. Alden considers the evolution of genius in itself and in its relation to human progress. As to the condition of literature at present, he does not regard it as a transitional period between the great achievements of the past and the possible literary wonders of the future. On the contrary, he believes that it is an ultimate, a final condition, in which we observe a general universal culture—the logical result of wide and free education—rather than the phenomenon of a few genius rising above its fellows, as Dante and Shakespeare rose in the past. Mr. Alden predicts, indeed, that we shall have no so striking figures as Dante and Michael Angelo in the future development of poetry and art.

QUESTIONS SETTLED IN A JIFFY.—A little vest-pocket book that shows contributions to the Internal Revenue of the country is Laird & Lee's Little Giant Question Settler. It answers 30,000 or more questions while the other fellow waits and leaves him to chance for a night. We have tried it, not on the other fellow, but on ourselves, and find it saves trouble. Laird & Lee, Chicago.

MEMORIAL TO EDWARD ROWLAND SILL, POET AND ESSAYIST.—A memorial to the poet Edward Rowland Sill has recently been unveiled at Oakland, Cal. It is in the form of a bronze sun-dial, mounted on a granite base, and is the gift of three classes of the Oakland High school, where Mr. Sill was a teacher a short time. He was not born in California, he spent the greater part of his adult life there, and, as his poems bear witness, he loved the land that he had chosen for his home with a fine appreciation for its beauty and its wonderful charms. His poem, "Christmas in California," is one of those which will be longest remembered. The poems of Sill are published in three volumes and are ready to be among the best selling poetry on the list of Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE MAGAZINES.

A Psychologist on Christian Science.—Mentalists, hypnotists, Christian Scientists, faith-curers, mental healers, medicine men, priests, saints and physicians, one and all succeed by playing upon the imagination. In producing remarkable changes in bodily health, says James Rowland Angell in The World Today for April. Moreover, so far as the evidence is available, the more intelligent employment of such agencies displays astonishing uniformity in the results achieved. Essentially the same agencies show themselves amenable to alleviation under the auspices of Christian Science as under hypnotic treatment; and about the same percentage of such disorders fails to yield to treatment under the most skillful procedure. A great mass of diseases—among them most of the more terrible scourges to which human life is heir—typhoid, smallpox, cholera and bubonic plague; in all cases of fracture and in all cases of traumatic lesion; the efficacy of mental factors in the process of recovery; the secondary and all but negligible, moreover, in such diseases as cancer, there is not a scintilla of really reliable evidence to show the slightest recuperative effect from mental sources.

THE READERS' QUESTION BOX.

(Readers sending serious questions about books of a technical or purely literary sort, or about matters pertaining to the book trade, will be answered here to the best of The Chat's ability.) P. R. replies to the question of G. E. E. T. saying that "If You But Knew," published by the Chat's West Publishing Co., is the kingdom of Westphalia at the close of the reign of Jerome Bonaparte.

AT THE THEATERS.

Metropolitan—"Checkers." The long shot, that will-o'-the-wisp that has lured so many to ruin, saves the day for the hero of the latest racing comedy, "Checkers," which is now playing at the Metropolitan. The girl he is striving to win, he lays her kepsake on a 100-to-1 shot, wins \$5,000 and emerges triumphant from a difficult situation. The girl, being only human, finds it easier to forgive a winner than a loser—and besides, she loves him. It takes more than a big winning on a horse race, however, to bring over her hard-headed heart. The girl, being only human, finds it easier to forgive a winner than a loser—and besides, she loves him. It takes more than a big winning on a horse race, however, to bring over her hard-headed heart.

Thomas W. Ross plays the hero with a restraint and delicacy that makes the sensation admirably natural and effective. Evincing the pliancy of the true "sport," he yet contrives to reveal the sincerity and sense of honor that actuate Checkers' devotion to his native land. The comedy of the native American sort, should be heard from in the future. David Brahm, Jr., with his high-pitched voice, makes a much needed contrast, but the makes an interesting figure of the young racing tout. Two excellent village characters are the skinkin' old banker of the town, and the old-time, old Uncle Jerry, by Charles Willard. The latter's boisterous approval of Checkers' stories, when he finally sees the point, and the way in which his fondness for them is very comical. Wallace Worsley plays Checkers' chum and rival very effectively, his best being done in the drunken scenes. The character of the heroine, Mrs. Ross, makes a lovely sweetheart for Checkers and Harriet Worthington fills the picture as her best friend. To Lydia Dickson is confined the character of the maid-servant, who is dazzled by the attentions of the tout, and she works up a most amusing bit along "Sis Hopkins' lines. If you've done it, it is at least a clever caricature.

The company is a large one and in the racing scene the stage is crowded with supernumeraries to give it realism. There are a band of negro boys and negro girls who win high favor with their antics. Despite the long waits, the audience seemed enthusiastic over the production and called Mr. Ross a "king" for his part in expressing his acknowledgments. —W. B. Chamberlain.

Foyer Chat. "Mother Goose," Klaw & Erlanger's brilliant spectacle, will be played at the Metropolitan for one week, beginning next Sunday night, and unless all signs fail, that house will be tested to its utmost capacity at every performance. It is the best of local theater-goers have never been shown such a brilliant spectacle or one containing as much rollicking fun and catchy music. Jack Norworth's parodies and his songs with local allusions continue to amuse large audiences at the Orpheum. "Buster Brown" has been making an emphatic hit at the Bijou with large and enthusiastic audiences nightly. The tiny comedian, Master Giovanni plays the title role and is assisted by Jack Bell, as Tiger.

Charles Blaney's new play "More to Be Pitted than Scorned," is to have its first production in this city next Sunday afternoon at the Bijou. There will be three more performances of "Cleopatra" at the Lyceum with Florence Stone in her famous emotional role of Egypt's queen. Next week a double bill, "Thelma" and "Camille" will be given, with Miss Stone in the title role. At forty men are either wed or bachelors so soon. They scorn poor little Cupid's darts and they scorn at Hyman's net. To moonlight walks they are averse. The tennis court they shun. The two-step puts them out of breath. As a result, the theater is sun. So, please them, and thus make room for the "wed" and the "bachelor." The soda fountain's subtle charm. When summer rules the land. Remove the "wed" and the "bachelor." But when you play your cards. You must be guided by the bill. —The Chat.

THE SUMMER GIRL TO DR. OSLER.

Chloroform them, weed them out. Leave 'em to rot in the ground. But forty is a bit too late—Begin at thirty-five. The general call for younger men, So does the light canoe. And sinking to the mandolin. We'll be there in two. At forty men are either wed or bachelors so soon. They scorn poor little Cupid's darts and they scorn at Hyman's net. To moonlight walks they are averse. The tennis court they shun. The two-step puts them out of breath. As a result, the theater is sun. So, please them, and thus make room for the "wed" and the "bachelor." The soda fountain's subtle charm. When summer rules the land. Remove the "wed" and the "bachelor." But when you play your cards. You must be guided by the bill. —The Chat.

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LABOR TROUBLES FOR BUILDING TRADES.

CONTRIVERSY OVER PLUMBERS' WAGE SCALE A MENACE. Employers Expected to Resist the Effectuation of the New Wage Scale and Bitter Contest May Result—How the Steamfitters Figure in the Affair.

Apprehension is felt in building trade circles lest the demands of the plumbers for an increase in the scale of wages be refused by the master plumbers and the whole building industry of the city be tied up. Since the proposed scale of \$4.50 a day was presented the employers have formed a local association in which it is said, all shops are represented. In addition the Building and Traders' exchange is said to be backing the bosses in their determination to hold out against the wages and conditions asked for by the workmen.

Members of the union say that when other cities of the same class as Minneapolis, the price asked is fair. They say that \$4.50 a day is paid in St. Paul, Duluth, Superior and other places, and that the new rate is a fair one for the introduction of a Saturday half-holiday, means an increase of but 75 cents a week, outside of the half-day Saturday. It is thought by some that the employment will find some difficulty in securing help from the outside points at anything less than the rate asked for by the union, because of the higher rate of pay prevailing elsewhere.

The Employers' View.

Employers, on the other hand, seem to think that the pay operation is a favor to the workmen, and a majority are said to be in favor of making a stand if the union insists upon the enforcement of the provisions of the new rate. As a result of the strike in St. Paul two years ago, for an increase to the \$4.50 a day rate, several of the largest shops are now operating on a non-union basis. To accomplish this result was very expensive for the employers, and if the Minneapolis firms conclude to go into the fray it will be with full knowledge of what they will have to contend with.

Altho two weeks have passed since the scale was presented to the employers, not one has given an indication as to what will be done in the way of accepting or rejecting it. This is taken by some to indicate that they have determined to reject the terms proposed with the union as far as the making of a wage agreement is concerned. For some time it has been the custom, in Minneapolis, for the employers and the union to come to an understanding in the matter of wages and hours without resorting to an ironical contract, and it is thought that the union will be forced to make a stand if the employers refuse to accept the scale, set a time for its becoming operative, and it went into effect without much ceremony. But heretofore it has been the custom to understand that the terms involved were acceptable to the employers.

Mangan Persuasive.

Another thing that may have some bearing upon the controversy is the decision of the Steamfitters' union to stay out of the United Association of Plumbers. Every arrangement has been made by the steamfitters to affiliate with the United association, even to the application for a charter and the disposition of the funds of the local union. It is thought that the preparation of a list of members to be sent to the general officers. Last week John Mangan, a general officer of the steamfitters, in submitting a list of members to the United Association of Plumbers, every arrangement has been made by the steamfitters to affiliate with the United association, even to the application for a charter and the disposition of the funds of the local union. It is thought that the preparation of a list of members to be sent to the general officers. 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