THE JOURNAL

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The Primary Cause.

The wreck near Harrisburg, in which twenty or more persons lost their lives, is an example of the riotous railroading of America. The primary cause of the catastrophe, says the officials, was a switching engine. It was seen coming upon the track of a freight which was loaded with 50,000 pounds of dynamite. The engineer of the freight put his brakes on hard and a portion of his train buckled and fell over on the next track. In a few minutes along thundered the Cincinnati express, one of the fastest trains on the Pennsylvania system, and ran plump into the prone freight cars. There was a tremendous jar and followed by a terrific explosion. Flames did the rest.

Now, it is quite evident that the switching engine was not the primary cause of the wreck. The primary cause was the American system of railroading, which lets loose a freight train carrying dynamite without sufficient precautions for the safety of the public. Such a train should have been preceded and followed by guard engines and the most sweeping precautions taken for a clear track. But a train loaded with this explosive appears to have been allowed to move into a crowded city with scarcely more precautions than would have been taken with a dozen carloads of cattle.

Just a plain railroad wreck is bad enough without having it complicated by 50,000 pounds of blasting powder. Yet they say that air-shipping is going to be dangerous!

Why in Favor of Japan?

Mr. P. Haan of Renville, Minn., asks The Journal to give clear, comprehensive reasons for the stand of Americans in favor of the Japanese in the war. They are:

First—Japan is fighting for her national life, threatened by the gradual but unrelenting encroachments of Russia upon the territory of China and Korea. The menace to the integrity of Japan could not be ignored. This is a sentimental reason, but it explains the attitude of nine-tenths of the Americans, who stand for a square deal.

Second—America is in favor of maintaining the territorial integrity of China and the open door. Both of these are menaced by Russian success and neither by Japanese success.

Third—Russian success means the overrunning of the whole of eastern Asia by one power whose policy has ever been exclusive. America's interests are best subserved by a balance of power in the far east.

Fourth—Russian diplomacy tried to fool the powers after the Peking expedition. She promised to get out of Manchuria and failed to do so. When Japan demanded the fulfillment of that pledge there was nothing in decency to do but stand by her in that demand. Russian chicanery is the cause of the war, and this country's diplomacy is not so highly developed as to approve chicanery, even when successful.

Our ideas of justice as well as our ideas of what is best for us, compel us to sympathize with Japan. There is little or nothing in the sentimental argument that Russia is a Christian nation and Japan not. The Christian nation today is one that acts Christian and, judged by this standard, Japan is the real Christian nation. In Japan all religions are free. Russia has only within the past ten days accorded a measure of religious liberty to her own people. It will be a long time before she will be capable of teaching other nations what religious freedom is.

Russia is a tremendous autocracy. Japan is the most enlightened nation of the orient. Her people participate in the workings of a parliamentary system as free as England's.

There is only one point at which American sympathy leans toward Russia, and that is on the point that Russia should have a great port somewhere on the open ocean. The civilizing tendency of free communication over the world's great waterways is needed in Russia. Such a port she could have had in Asia had she played her cards honestly. In the beginning, all that Japan asked was a a square deal and the recognition of her paramount interests in Korea. Russia lost her opportunity when she did not play the game squarely with Japan.

A dozen sturdy boys employed in the works of the Standard Oil company in Long Island City wanted more pay. Their spokesman, Dennis Mahoney, consulted the foreman of the works on behalf of his associates. "They say in de papers," he announced, "that a lot of church guys do be shoveling Rockefeller's money back into his pocket. Do you be thinkin' he would stand a raise?"

The foreman was a just man, of some humor.

"Suppose we talk it over," he said. Dennis consented, and a crisis in the oil trade was averted.

Cassini's Departure.

The underground wireless indicates that Washington is merely polite in its expressions of regret over the departure of Cassini. The fact is Washington has grown pretty tired of Cassini's picturesque and ornate incapacity to state a proposition truthfully. We do not feel that in saying this we cast any reflection upon Cassini nor will he take it so. It is the business of a Russian ambassador to deceive the government to which he is accredited, and when he has told all his lies and when they have all been exposed the czar relieves him and sends on a new man, with a new bunch of fibs. The fact is that Cassini has not been able to invent a thing in the last year and his usefulness at Washington is at an end.

This does not mean that he is in disgrace at home. It means, on the contrary, that having served his purpose well he is called home for rest and will then go to some other government which is unacquainted with him. The Russian diplomat is something like the itinerant pastor. When the pastor has preached all his sermons he goes to a far town and turns the barrel. The Russian diplomat when he has told all his stories goes to a far country and begins to relate his story backwards.

The Mishawaka (Ind.) Enterprise says that "a certain class of degenerates are threatening to move from Indiana because of the restrictions imposed by the anti-cigaret law." It begins to be evident now why that law was passed.

The Japs at Port Arthur.

As the story of the siege of Port Arthur written by George Kennan in the Outlook develops, it appears that the Japanese did not know everything about the fortress in the beginning. They made some serious mistakes which cost them thousands of lives. For example, one of their grand assaults completely failed, because they had miscalculated the width and depth of the ditches they would have to cross to reach the forts. After charging thru a murderous fire, they found their ladders so short that they could not put them down into the ditches with any hope of reaching the top on the other side, nor had they any adequate means of bridging them. They were compelled then to retreat thru the same murderous fire, and to leave hundreds of wounded behind.

It has also been popularly supposed that it was the cunning of the Japanese which brought the ancient hand grenade into action. The fact seems to be that the Japanese imitated the idea from the Russians themselves. The Slavs were armed with hand-grenades of a high explosive quality and in one engagement by their use entirely annihilated a Japanese detachment and retook an intrenchment that had been carried by a night assault. The Japanese immediately began making hand grenades of tin cans filled with shimose powder, but they were inferior to the Russian weapon.

Mr. Kennan also criticizes the Japanese rifle pits as neither deep enough nor carefully made. The Japanese, he says, are not naturally diggers. They would excuse the inadequacy of their intrenching, saying: "What is the use of so much trouble; we will be farther advanced tomorrow." And they generally were. Port Arthur was taken by the fanatical initiative of the Japanese soldiers. They welcomed death if it would advance Nippon a foot on the road to victory.

It is considered a good joke on Kentucky. The legislature of that state recently passed a chicken-stealing law. Of course everybody understood what it was passed for. But what was the amazement of the people when the first victim of the law turned out to be a white man; a Caucasian, and a native of the county where he was arrested! This has left the jury and the judge in something of a quandary.

The democratic ascendant stars are said to be Joseph Folk in the constellation of Missouri, and Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne in the constellation of Illinois. The celebrated shooting star, William J. Bryan, is still emitting sparks and threatening to alight almost anywhere. But the real choice of the democratic party seems to be Theodore Roosevelt, of New York.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Pittsburg has refused to admit to membership three applicants because they are actors. The plea is that the stage is a demoralizing institution, and that, therefore, representatives of the theatrical profession would have "a demoralizing influence on the younger members of the association." These "younger members" should be "strengthened."

"Unionism has come to stay," says the petition of the Chicago strikers to the president. Certainly. Why not? The trouble with President Shea and his followers is a confusion of ideas—they have mistaken slugism for unionism. Slugism hasn't come to stay—not if our government is good for anything, and it probably is.

Among the heroes who refuses to resign under fire we may count Hyde, Alexander and Tarbell of the Equitable, Premier Balfour and Secretary Morton. Not one of these men is fond of office, but they do not see where a proper successor can be found.

The Memphis Commercial-Appeal has united the twin cities under the name of Pauleopolis. Poof! This one went out of discussion in '76. Minnepaul, Saintolis and several others have been committed to the workhouse since then for the limit.

"Stick to your flannels till your flannels stick to you," is the way the Atlanta Constitution puts it. The Scotch have a saying, "Ne'er cast a clout till May be oot." You take your choice and meanwhile nurse the furnace.

Banker Bigelow is said to have stated that he "was simply a fool." There are lots of fellows at Waupun who have reached the same conclusion with regard to themselves.

"I wanted congress to give me authority to remodel the Panama commission. It did not do it. I remodeled it anyhow."—From "How to Get There," by T. Roosevelt.

The California courts have ruled that an Indian cannot be compelled to have his hair cut. Personally, now, would you care to try to compel an Indian to this course?

Governor Hogg of Texas has seen a great light. He says that Roosevelt is the greatest president since Jackson. And the governor is the whole Hogg in Texas.

If there were any Chicago people in the railroad wreck that was complicated with blasting powder it must have seemed like home.

After the present war is over it is possible that Japan will have a few diplomatic requests to make of its esteemed enemy, France.

Dr. Harper seems obstinately bent on getting well. There is nothing pleases people more than to see a "doomed" man getting well.

Isn't it an abuse of the reporter's privilege to accuse an attorney in a capital case of being a "silver-tongued orator"?

Mayor John Weaver of Philadelphia is said to be at last impressed with the power of prayer.

Bowen has arrived in a sealed-up state, but the president is hurrying home to break the seals.

England has sent final notice to France that Roje must make a fair start or get off the track.

Admiral Rojestvensky would freely give $25 to know just where that artful dodger, Togo, is.

Strangely enough, the American Asphalt company is weak in the pitching department.

Some folks are moving to the lakes, probably to cut their next winter's ice.

Last words of last April: "Cheer up, the worst is yet to come."

WHAT CITIES ARE DOING

Commissioner of Works Bissell of Albany, N. Y., has made an estimate to the council of $296,000 to install an electric light plant and $121,000 annually to run it. His figures are on a plant double the capacity of the present plant and indicate a reduction of the price per light of $21 from the present price.

There were seven bills before the New York legislature as a result of the lighting inquiry. Six of these have been passed and one defeated. The latter provided for 75-cent gas for private consumers on Manhattan island. On its face this looked like a defeat for the city, but one of the bills passed established a state lighting commission, which Governor Higgins is confident has power to reduce rates.

The Municipal Ownership league of New York proposes to have a committee to make a three-months' study of typical English cities where public ownership has been adopted.

There is considerable misinformation in regard to the Glasgow tram system. The city never acquired but always owned it. In 1871 the city leased the system to a private concern. It refused to renew the lease, and in 1894 began to operate the lines itself, introducing the graded fares and improved the system. According to the last annual report 56,788,872 passengers were carried for a cent, 178,021,739 for 2 cents, 9,624,099 for 3 cents and about 3,000,000 for the higher fares. Glasgow has about four times the population of Minneapolis on about one-third as many acres. Thousands of families live in one or two rooms down town. While the graded car fares did not create this condition, they have helped to maintain it. It is the reverse of the policy of American cities, where every effort is made to extend streetcar facilities that the workers may have homes, room and air in the suburbs.

The public ownership movement, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, gets its impulse from the men who have made private ownership a scandal and a peril. It denounces the Chicago jobbers who took properties worth $27,000,000 and increased the capitalization to $117,000,000, and the St. Louis jobbers who took properties worth $30,000,000 and increased the capitalization to $90,000,000. The privileges and franchises of both were obtained by the "greasy hand of boodle."

After forcing the city to take over the Staten Island ferry the people are holding mass meetings demanding that it be operated free to everybody. This moves the Springfield Republican to remark that "the tendency to get out of the government all that pressure can secure would wreck the finest scheme of socialism ever imagined." How is this? Isn't socialism an ideal state in which nobody would pay for anything?

OUR CHAUNCEY!

Nebraska State Journal.

Curiosity has been aroused as to how young Mr. Hyde succeeded in having his salary as figurehead in the Equitable Insurance company raised from $25,000 a year to $100,000, with further large salaries in the Equitable's subsidiary companies, all without the question being made an issue in the directorate or among the policyholders. No official explanations have been made, but it has come to light that the increases were allowed by a subcommittee composed of Chauncey Depew and Valentine P. Snyder. Mr. Depew, it may be added, gets $25,000 a year from the Equitable as "counsel fees," and Mr. Snyder is well paid as president of a bank that is controlled by the Equitable.

ALL INFORMATION WELCOME

Red Wing News.

The News is indebted to well-wishers, to us unknown, for a great number of pamphlets setting forth that government regulation of railroad rates would be the ruin of small investors, the annihilation of transportation and the destruction of this fair land. Thanks. We are looking for light from whatever source.

HE TOOK 'EM OFF

His eyes are red, his voice is rough,
He's taking heaps of doctors' stuff,
He sniffs and sneezes all day long,
And everything he eats tastes wrong.
If anyone should ask you, tho,
He knows just why he suffers so.
For this is what you'll hear him say:
"I took 'em off the first warm day."
—Chicago Tribune.

BOOK CHAT

THE UNEASY CHAIR

RELATION OF RELIGION TO KNOWLEDGE.—G. Lowes Dickinson in a little book called **Religion: a Criticism and a Forecast**, sets forth the claim that "truth is not revealed, in any sense of the word 'revelation,' which can be appropriately distinguished from the sense of the word 'science'—it can only be known, or knowable, by perception, analysis and inference." Upon this basis he reaches the conclusion "that the notion of a church with a revelation of divine truth is as absurd as the notion of a mathematical society with a revelation of mathematical truth."

Why? He says scientific knowledge is obtained by "perception, analysis and inference." Before it can be admitted that his conclusion is correct it must be known whether science has exhausted all the means of "perception." The truth is, science limits perception, making it mean sense perception. If prophet and priest go farther and claim to find a way to open the mind to intuitive perception of truth, it is surely incumbent upon science to weigh the soundness of that claim, before it can be said that the "notion of a church with a revelation of divine truth is absurd."

However, Mr. Dickinson makes room for faith as opposed to agnosticism. The latter, he says, makes a mistake in saying not merely: "I do not know," but "I will consider." Faith, on the other hand, "is the impulse to grow and expand; and, just because it is that, it has itself no form. It is a taper burning, now bright, now dim, and changing color and substance with every change in the stuff it consumes. The frailest thing we know, it is also the least perishable, for it is a tongue of the central fire that burns at the heart of the world."

It is interesting to know that Mr. Dickinson confesses the authorship of "Letters from a Chinese Official," a criticism of western civilization from the oriental standpoint, published about a year ago by the same publishers.

McClure, Phillips & Co., New York.

OFFER OF MARRIAGE FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Conan Doyle finds it more difficult than he ever imagined to get rid of Sherlock Holmes. Tho he has now tried to rusticate him on a bee farm in Kent, the public is not willing to let its favorite go. Dr. Doyle daily receives scores of letters relating to his famous character.

An amusing missive containing a carefully made proposal of marriage, is one of the latest. This was from a gentleman who wrote, stating that his former housekeeper was looking for a position. She had had great experience with bees, and, in fact, knew all about them, and he would be very glad to recommend her to Mr. Holmes if his address was supplied. The writer also hinted that as Holmes was advancing in years and the housekeeper was a woman of about middle age, well preserved, and possessing all the domestic virtues, perhaps there might be still more happy results from this meeting than the mere supplying of the detective with a housekeeper. Dr. Doyle says he proposes to keep Holmes a bachelor if he can, altho there is no doubt that it would be very interesting to see the inscrutable detective involved in the intricacies of a courtship.

SPRING SONG.

Spring came dancing down the glades,
Her arms with violets laden;
And Spring met Love, and Love was sad,
Love vowed he'd never more be glad.
Spring sighed—the tender maiden!

Spring scattered violets thru the glades
And hid them in the blowing grass;
And Love bent down and plucked a flower
And hasted to his Lady's bower.
Spring sang—the happy maiden!

Spring whispered to the waiting birds
To trill a roundelay;
Spring came Love, and Love was glad,
He vowed he never could be sad.
Spring laughed—the witching maiden!
—Rita Scherman in the Reader Magazine for May.

OUIDA, AS SEEN BY A DIPLOMAT'S WIFE.—Mary King Waddington, wife of William Henry Waddington, who resigned the premiership of France in 1879, and spent the following winter in Italy, in her book, **Italian Letters of a Diplomat's Wife**, mentions Ouida as a "genius." One is not sure, however, whether there is not a bit of irony in the term as she uses it. She mentions a tea at the villa of Ouida, near Florence, in the following:

Ouida came to the gate to meet us, and Mme. Tchiatcheff named me. She was civil, but before I had time to say that M. Waddington was coming in another carriage, she looked past me, saying: "Et Monsieur Waddington—il ne vient donc pas," with such evident disappointment and utter indifference to the presence of Mme. Waddington that I was rather taken aback; but I suppose geniuses must not be judged like other people. I was rather disappointed in her appearance. I expected to see her dressed in "primrose satin with trails of white lace," or as an Italian peasant, and she really looked like anyone else—her hair cut short and a most intelligent face. She was interesting when she talked about Italy, and the absolute poverty of the people.

Mme. Waddington's letters give many a like glimpse of celebrities in Italy, met from May to January, 1880, and on a subsequent trip between February and April, 1904. The letters were written for relatives very near to her, who were as greatly interested in what she was doing because it was she that was doing it as in the persons whom and the things which she describes. They, therefore, lose something for the general reader. Nevertheless, they contain a wealth of valuable material about many persons one wants to know about, and it is all sparklingly written.

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. $2.50 net.

CARRYL'S LITERARY RELICS.—Those who had the privilege of knowing Guy Wetmore Carryl, author of "Far from the Maddening Girls," declare that that book, clever and amusing as it is, was only a promise of greater achievement. The fire which destroyed Mr. Carryl's house, Shingle Blessedness, at Swampscott, and which was largely responsible for his death, burnt up several important manuscripts, including four or five short stories and a long book which was called "The Little Marquis." This was somewhat in the vein of Ik Marvel's "Reveries of a Bachelor," and was considered by those who had heard it as by far the best thing Mr. Carryl had ever done.

THE READER'S QUESTION BOX

Booklover—No sequel to "Doors Outward" has been written. The author is Mrs. S. S. Robbins, who can be addressed in care of the Western Methodist Book concern, 57 Washington street, Chicago. If a sequel to Lucy C. Lillie's "Squire's Daughter" has been written it can doubtless be obtained from Henry T. Coates & Co., Philadelphia, thru any bookstore or directly.

GREAT HUNTING DAYS

St. Louis Star.

The flushing of women's clubs is an easier task than uncovering a grizzly bear. Therefore, so far as hunting is concerned, Grover, during the past few weeks, has had the advantage of Teddy.

OUR STUBBORN NEIGHBORS

Puck.

It is well enough to be sure you are right, but you will be a whole lot more comfortable if you don't insist on convincing other people of it.

AT THE THEATERS

Metropolitan—"Alt Heidelberg."

The first performance of the German Theater company last evening was a decided success. It must have been a great satisfaction to the German-Americans, who promoted this attraction, and it has surely given great pleasure to the company to play before such a large and enthusiastic audience. All the German element of this city has been in evidence and it shows that a German-American can easily combine his loyalty to his adopted country with love and interest for his old "vaterland," and listening with joy to his native language, spoken so pure and beautiful, from the best German actors ever heard in Minneapolis.

"Alt Heidelberg," which, in itself is more or less not a great drama, and only giving few dramatic effects, has nevertheless been expressing a sentiment of longing of the old home across the big water, satisfying the German feeling for the old home. The drama itself is well known to the public in Minneapolis, as it has been presented many a time by American companies. But I may state that a more enthusiastic and true German student cast never has been given before audiences here. The good German actor is expressing the Teutonic "sentimentality" with such enthusiasm and with such free but idealistic passion that it is a great satisfaction to see him and listen to his speech, coming so warm and true from his heart, and influencing the audience with sympathy and interest from beginning to the end.

The most prominent part of the "Hereditary Prince of Sachsen-Karlsburg" was given by Kurt Stark, a young actor of unusual talent, dramatic strength and still full of sympathy and sentimentality in his scenes with his instructor, Dr. Guettner, and in the love scenes with Kathe. The last act was very impressive and the change of the young, frivolous student to the representative of a royal house was expressed with manly dignity and still happily mixed with that boyish sentimental grief. Frieda Schulz entered in the character of Kathe, the charming waitress, with spirit and naivete, and the expression of her true love for Karl Heinrich in the last act was dramatic and powerful. Friedrich Gros as Dr. Guettner and Emil Marr as Exellenz von Haugh gave two strong characters in the cast and deserve much praise. All the others supported the company in a worthy way and the next performances will give them more opportunity to display their talents. We are looking forward with great interest and hope that they will be patronized with the same spirit and interest as yesterday, as they surely deserve great encouragement in their efforts to present the best in German literature with such an excellent cast. —A. E. Schoen-Rene.

Foyer Chat.

The dialog of "Leah Kleschna," the play that Mrs. Fiske and the Manhattan company will present at the Auditorium on May 18, 19 and 20, is human dialog of the sort that people use nowadays—vigorous and to the point. There is no hint of staginess or redundance in any of the speeches. They are short and terse and every word counts.

Those who accept invitations to the wedding of Katherine (Kitty) Silverton, daughter of the late Anthony Silverton of Coulsdon Hall, Surrey, to Sir Reginald Belsize, baronet of Belsize court, Surrey, which will be celebrated nightly at the Metropolitan for the half week commencing Sunday next, with Max Figman as proxy for Sir Reginald and Della Niven as Kitty's proxy, will witness a pleasing affair.

The merry musical comedy success, "The Burgomaster," will be the attraction at the Metropolitan for four nights, starting Thursday, May 18. The company is headed by Ruth White and Oscar L. Figman.

There have been other bicycle riders at the Orpheum this season, but none has introduced the repertory of difficult feats, easily performed, of the Count de Butz, the comedy bicyclist of this week.

The programs at both performances at the Unique theater tonight will be made up of specialties by amateurs and professional turns will be limited to two numbers. There are sufficient volunteers to assure an amateur program of more than usual interest.

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK

Sympathy with Japan.

To the Editor of The Journal.

I infer from what you occasionally say in your paper that not only yourself but, as you seem to think, the overwhelming majority of the American people are on the side of the Japanese in this war with the Russians. As I believe that millions of thinking Americans and Europeans (except perfidious England, and possibly Sweden), for any number of good sound reasons, are with the Russians, you would confer a great favor on your readers to give them clear, comprehensive reasons for your stand. Manchuria did not belong to Japan. She has never spent one dollar for the development of that country, but Russia many millions. Japan is not in need of any harbor or port in Manchuria, but Russia is. The Japs are merchants and will soon crowd out our merchants. The Russians are agricultural. They make good farmers and good citizens. They have done America much good; the Japs never any. The Russians are of our race and religion; the Japs of neither. —P. Haan.

Renville, May 9.

THE YOUNG SCOUNDRELS WORK

Detroit Journal.

"The secret of Japan's wonderful success," said a globe-trotter, "lies, perhaps, in this: Whereas the richest and best-born and most powerful of other nations' young men give themselves over to frivolity and idleness, the flower of the young men of Japan work, work, work. In the pleasure cities of the world—at Monte Carlo, in Paris, in Algiers, in Ostend, in Cairo—you will find young grand dukes from Russia, young baronets and lords from England, all gambling, motoring, skiing, yachting, dining, and what not. But do you find among them—I don't mean now only, but ever—have you ever seen among them—any of the young princes and earls and millionaires of Japan? No, indeed. Those young men have been working in our universities, working in our machine shops, working in our chemical laboratories, working, working."

HIT ON THE PLEXUS

St. Louis Star.

A tornado knocked out the very center of United States the other day—at least, the house at Richmond, Ind., which is designated by the census bureau as accupying that spot, was demolished by a twister.

IT SAVORED OF INTELLIGENCE

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Washington policeman is charged with reading a newspaper while on duty. Anything that savors of intelligence on the Washington force is rudely frowned down.

JAMES DOESN'T MIND

Detroit Journal.

James J. Hill says that the "Panama canal will not hurt the transcontinental railroads." Thus reassured, we can hurry thru the work with clear conscience.

LABOR

PREPARING FOR STATE MEETING

BRAINERD WILL ENTERTAIN LABOR ON JUNE 12.

Steps May Be Taken to Head Off Work of American Labor Union—Candidates for Federation Offices Are Busy—Gompers Meeting Is an Assured Success—Plans for Seating.

Brainerd is busy preparing for the reception and entertainment of delegates to the convention of the State Federation of Labor, which will meet there Monday, June 12. Unions all over the state are electing delegates, and indications point to a well-attended convention. R. C. Kutz, second vice president, a resident of Brainerd, has been actively engaged in the preliminary work. He is a member of the committee of arrangements.

It is not thought the socialist element will be much in evidence this year. The American Labor Union, which is composed of socialists to a great extent, will come in for some attention at the hands of the delegates, and steps may be taken to balk the move toward organizing workmen inaugurated this year in this city by the former. Agents of the labor union are actively engaged in missionary work wherever opportunity offers, and it is said two former members of the Machinists' union are at present doing work in the interests of the McDonald forces. These men, it is said, have relinquished membership in the Machinists' union and have cast their lot with the A. L. U.

The customary one and one-third rate has been secured for those attending the convention, while hotel rates will not be increased. From Minneapolis, St. Paul and Stillwater, a rate of $5.50 will be in effect.

The credentials committee will meet, as usual, on the Sunday preceding the convention, at the Ransford hotel, which has been selected as headquarters for the officers. W. E. McEwen, secretary-treasurer, will arrive in Brainerd, Sunday, June 11, and requests that all correspondence mailed to him after June 9 be directed to the Ransford.

Mr. McEwen, it is understood, will be a candidate for re-election as secretary-treasurer. He will have some opposition, but feels pretty certain that he will succeed himself. For the office of president there will be a number of candidates. So far President H. L. Dix and Charles E. James of St. Paul are the only known candidates, but there is always a large field.

GOMPERS MEETING

Local Unions Contributing Liberally to Expense Fund.

Interest is increasing in the approaching visit of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor and the acknowledged head of organized labor in the United States and Canada. The unions are coming into line with appropriations to help defray the heavy expenses the committee will have to meet. Tuesday evening the Painters' union donated $100, this being the largest sum given by an individual union. Members of the committee are visiting the various organizations soliciting cooperation, and unless all signs fail the affair in honor of Mr. Gompers at the Auditorium the evening of May 23 will be a brilliant success.

Admission to the Auditorium will be by ticket, and the management will furnish ushers and look after the general arrangements at the mass meeting. Tickets will be issued by the committee to the members of organized labor, these to be exchanged later for other tickets good for reserved seats. A man will be on duty at the Metropolitan Music store on May 20, 22 and 23 to handle this part of the work. Full plans will probably be announced after the meeting of the committee tomorrow night. Seats upon the stage will also be disposed of under the direction of the committee.

A professional organist has been engaged and a number of selections upon the large organ will be a part of the program. It is the intention of those concerned to invite representatives from the Commercial club, the churches, merchants' and manufacturers' associations, and it is likely the big Auditorium will be taxed to the limit.

BUILDING TRADES ALLIANCE

New National Organization Holds First Convention in Buffalo.

Messrs. A. G. Bainbridge and Philip Carlin, well-known members of the Painters' union and the Carpenters' union, respectively, left last night for Buffalo, N. Y., to attend the first annual convention of the Structural Building Trades Alliance of America. Mr. Bainbridge is second vice president and Mr. Carlin is a member of the board of governors.

Since the date of organization, Oct. 8, 1903, the alliance has taken in six of the large building trade unions, namely, the Carpenters, Hod Carriers and Building Laborers, Steam Engineers, United Association of Plumbers, Painters and Decorators and the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers. Four other unions have signified that they are in hearty accord with the alliance, as follows: The Bricklayers, Plasterers, Electrical Workers and the Sheet Metal Workers. Thirty local alliances have been formed in the United States, and of late the new organization has been successful in its efforts to induce consideration of its plan by many building trade unions.

However, upon the work of the coming convention will in all probability depend the future of the general organization. There are outside over half the crafts which compose the building trades organizations, and to carry out the original idea all these must be brought into the fold.

The convention will be called Monday morning, May 15, and the Minneapolis delegates will be absent about two weeks.

LABEL LEAGUE MEETS

Delegates from Three More Organizations Received.

Last Friday evening delegates were received by the United Union Label Council from the Press Assistants, Garment Workers and the Woman's Union Label League. Math Miesen of the Retail Clerks' association was chosen chairman of the label committee. Delegates from the Team Drivers' union asked assistance from the council in keeping their members in line.

The third entertainment and dance given under the auspices of the council, at A. O. U. W. hall, last Tuesday evening, was well attended, altho the night was stormy.

RECEIVE GOMPERS

Cigarmakers Will Have an Address from Him May 25.

Cigarmakers' union No. 77 met last evening and elected as delegates to the state federation E. G. Hall, Max Conrad and John Kirby. Alternates were selected in the person of E. Rhode, John D. Chibbuck and Albin Weizel.

No. 77 is preparing to hold a reception in honor of Samuel Gompers, on the evening of May 25. That evening the session of the union will be called to order at 7 o'clock and Mr. Gompers will be present and make an address.

On the night of May 23, when the mass meeting will be held at the Auditorium, the members of the union will assemble at Union Temple and march to the Auditorium in a body. A special badge will be designed for the occasion.

A. Koppi was elected as the representative of the union in the co-operative garment workers' factory.

Next meeting the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary will be made a special order of business.

TWO NEW CHARTERS

Mill Employees Organized in Two Western Cities.

Two new unions received charters from the International Union of Flour and Cereal Mill Employees this week. Harper, Kan., and Dennison, Tex., were the places, and the former carries with it the use of the label.

A number of members of the mill unions left the city recently. George Darth, William Mitchell and Al Morrison have gone to Idaho, where they are understood to have secured positions in the milling business. Mr. Darth was an organizer for the mill employees, a member of the Trades Assembly, and was always active in the cause of organized labor. Mr. Mitchell was a member of the international executive board.

Local No. 2 will elect delegates next Sunday afternoon for the convention to be held at Quincy, Ill., the week of June 19. Both unions will likely send their full quota.

Bakers Offer Help.

Local unions have taken up the fight of the striking Chicago teamsters. Bakers' union, No. 222, at a meeting this week, tendered financial aid to the Chicago teamsters.

Next meeting the bakers will elect delegates to the state federation and vote upon the selection of a place for holding the convention to be held next July. Kansas City is a favorite with the northwestern unions, and Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth are united in an effort to swing enough votes to Kansas City to award her the honor.

Annual Agreements.

District union delegates of machinists from all along the line of the Northern Pacific will assemble in St. Paul next week to consider wage schedules and working rules with the railway authorities. These gatherings are an annual occurrence, and so far have been the means of arriving at amicable settlements of points in dispute. The boilermakers of the Northern Pacific system concluded negotiations with the officials of the company last week.

Labor Talk in Church.

Milton N. Rogers, a well-known member of the Carpenters' union, and Miss Maley, an employee of a local printing company, spoke last Sunday evening at the Thirty-eighth Street Congregational church upon "The Church and the Labor Problem." The speakers commanded the closest attention and much interest was displayed in the subject.

Carl D. Thompson will speak at the same place Sunday evening, May 28. His subject will be "The Social Problem."

LABOR NOTES.

W. L. Krussow will represent the Twin City Photo Engravers in the State Federation. The election was held at St. Paul Monday night. A committee was appointed to arrange for a river excursion, the proceeds from which will be put into a defense fund.

Garment Workers' union will elect delegates to the state federation at the meeting May 23.

W. R. Murphy, financial secretary of Carpenters' union, No. 7, will officiate as business agent of the Building Trades Council in the absence of Philip Carlin.

Metal Polishers' union will vote for international officers next Wednesday. The polls will be open at 5 o'clock p.m. in hall No. 4, Union Temple.

Stage Employees' union will elect delegates to the international convention at Pittsburg and delegates to the State Federation at the next regular meeting.

A. S. Bailey has been elected corresponding secretary of the Bartenders' union in place of W. Grethen, who resigned.

General Organizer Cummings of the Steamfitters, left last Saturday night for Milwaukee and Chicago. He will attend the convention of the Structural Building Trades Alliance in Buffalo next week.

Routine business occupied most of the session of the Building Trades Council last night. Delegates to the convention of the State Federation were chosen, Charles Bongey of the Painters and C. T. Frye being the choice of the council.

Representatives of a number of ice companies attended the meeting of the Ice Wagon Drivers' union at Alexander's hall last Saturday night. The question of wages for this season was considered and it was decided to seek no change. Fifteen members were initiated and was $10 was voted the Gampers entertainment committee.

Mother Jones was in Minneapolis for a time last Saturday. She has been traveling in the interest of the American Labor Union and was on her to Colorado, after a trip to the copper region.

St. Paul and Minneapolis Stereotypers' union elected officers as follows: President, G. Bircher, St. Paul News; vice president, S. Lund, Minneapolis Journal; secretary-treasurer, W. F. Smith, Kellogg Newspaper company. Other officers and delegates to the central bodies of both cities will be selected at a subsequent meeting.

The Carpenters' Journal is now appearing in magazine form, which is a vast improvement over the old style. The current issue contains several meritorious special articles from the pens of well-known writers.

ONE ON CHARLES

Kansas City Star.

Representative Towne of New York bases his contention that President oRsevelt is no democrat on the fact that the chief executive is an "autocrat." His idea of a democrat, he explains, is that of an official "who refrains from transcending the limits of the constitution, or from infusing his own personality into the details of the government."

With no consideration of the question of the president's rightful political allegiance, it may be pointed out that Mr. Towne's creed must imply him to deny the blessings of the party communion to at least two men who have been regarded as pretty fair democrats. Jefferson was constantly criticized thruout his administration for his domination of the government, while Jackson was commonly called "King Andrew" by his opponents, and the party organized to combat his "despotism" was named for the revolutionary whigs who had fought the tyranny of King George.

Mr. Towne must have forgotten the Louisiana purchase and the beginning of the Cumberland road. Possibly he has overlooked the fact that Washington Irving was satirizing Jefferson in his "Knickerbocker's History of New York" as William the Testy, who governed by proclamation. He may never have come across the 13-year-old Bryant's denunciation of the embargo in the rhyme beginning:

Go, wretch! resign thy presidential chair,
Disclose thy secret measures, foul or fair.

Jackson's control of congress doubtless has escaped his attention along with such matters as that determined president's assault on the United States bank. Evidently Mr. Towne does not recall the fact that Tocqueville's observation of the Jackson regime led him to observe that the tendency of democracies was to concentrate power in an autocrat's hands.

It might be added that Mr. Cleveland had a certain influence over the government during both his terms. But perhaps the distinguished representative from Tammany Hall would deny that Mr. Cleveland was a democrat. Still, the advocacy of a standard that would bar even two such democrats as Jefferson and Jackson might stagger the ordinary man—which Mr. Towne, of course, is not.

THE "TAINTED"

Washington Post.

It must be a little discouraging to Mr. Rockefeller to dodge an uppercut every time he tries to give away his money.