

THE JOURNAL

VOLUME XXVIII—No. 1.

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PUBLISHED EVERY DAY

Policyholder's Letter.

THE letter of a "Policyholder," published today in *The Journal*, we must say has no application to this paper, tho the writer includes *The Journal* in his list of newspapers which are not giving the insurance question a "fair shake."

The position of *The Journal* has been from the first this:

First—The system of insurance is not in question. The soundness of the principle of old-line insurance, with adequate premiums, is admitted. It is good either for protection or investment.

Second—There is little or nothing in the claim that insurance premiums are too high. They must be high enough to be perfectly safe, and all the surplus aside from the reserve should come back to the policyholder in what are called dividends.

Third—These dividends should be credited to the policyholders every year and should be accepted as a liability by the company.

Fourth—There is no question of the solvency of any of the companies under investigation. They will continue in business and be better than ever when this investigation is finished.

Several of them have already begun internal reforms, which will result in substantial gains to their policyholders. *The Journal* has never believed it possible that men would in any considerable numbers sacrifice their insurance because of the investigations now going on.

The insurance investigations is not an investigation of insurance with a view to discovering whether it is a safe and sound system of investment. It is an investigation of the acts of certain men high in the insurance business who have been proven the wrong men in the right place. The outcome of this investigation is to be the thrusting out of the harpies and their replacement with men who will be the servants, not the masters, of the companies.

A great deal has been written about the necessity of divorcing Wall street and insurance. The one simple effective way to do this is to abolish the tontine gamble. When the companies have no extravagant surplus to play with, Wall street will soon lose interest insurance. When the Armstrong committee makes its report, which Mr. Hughes will undoubtedly write, it will be found that the committee is agreed upon the proposition that insurance is not on trial at all, but that certain men are on trial before the public and ought to be on trial before a jury. It will undoubtedly recommend more stringent protection of the assets of the companies and more economical administration, to the end that the policyholders shall get full returns in dividends, and, if we mistake not, tontine contracts will be prohibited.

The situation regarding insurance is distinctly optimistic. There is nothing to discourage the policyholder for the future, and everything to indicate that within two years he will see tangible returns in increased dividends as the result of the public exposure of the past few months.

Mr. Taft wants to dig the canal so that a whale can swim thru. Every man who doesn't have to pay for it will feel that way.

Wall Street Catching On.

LATEST news from the financial center indicates that Wall Street is rather worried about the president's attitude in the matter of railroad rate regulation. As the president's stand has been known for some time there would seem to be little occasion for surprise and alarm. The report appears, however, to have gone around the street that the Roosevelt idea has come to be accepted by a majority of the members of the senate. This would make probable a favorite senate report on any rate bill submitted by the house.

Wall Street has its ideas as to how the country ought to be run, and it expects the house of representatives to go counter to them at times. The house and radicalism are associated in the minds of many eastern financiers. But the good old slow-moving conservative senate is always there to choke off anything that may seem too severe. Wall Street and the senate are better acquainted than Wall Street and the house. Usually the senate may be trusted not to do anything rash, certainly not to do anything in a hurry.

Right up to date the street has refused to attach full measure of seriousness to the rate-regulation program. Knowing the president so well the street ought really to have known that he would scarcely commit himself to a proposition he did not intend to see thru. But Wall Street lives too much within itself to grasp the full weight of sentiment upon this question the country over. One may not find very hearty indorsement of the Roosevelt plan along Broadway, or in the railroad offices, but there are some millions of people in the country outside of New York who are in full sympathy with the president's railroad policy and the senators probably know the feeling of the people better than most of the financiers.

Without doubt the forthcoming legislation will be used by the market manipulators as a club to hammer down prices of stocks. As many stocks are highly inflated anyway, this club will do as well as anything. Yet no legitimate value will be disturbed either in the street or out of it. If anyone thinks that the president is out to put a handicap upon the railroads, or to stand for legislation affecting their prosperity or the prosperity of anyone, he may as well get rid of the idea at once. There are abuses to be corrected. That is the basis for the move.

If the rate regulation becomes a stock-market factor, however, it will not be surprising to hear every kind of vicious motive attributed to the framers of bills and supporters of the president, and many dire things predicted, but the country will feel no bad effects, even tho a few Wall Street bears make money on a scare in the market.

President Benjamin Ide Wheeler says he has never objected to football because it was rough, but because it is too highly specialized for the average student. Ben may be right. We have an idea that the "average student" would stand about as well in a football game as an apple woman in a Cossack charge.

Speaking of the allied fleet's jaunt up the Bosphorus to enforce financial reforms on Turkey, what is the matter with the convoy of proxies with which Admiral Lawson promises to sail into Mr. McCall's kiosk in April?

Washington and the West.

LITTLE is known in our day about George Washington as a man of affairs. For his time, Washington was a man of wealth, as any one realizes who has seen Mt. Vernon, but his business interests were by no means confined to the Virginia plantation. He had heavy landed holdings west of the Alleghenies, and was one of the strongest early influences in his time for development of the western country. "Washington and the West," a new publication edited by Archer Butler Hulbert, contains Washington's diary kept in September, 1784, during his journey in the Ohio basin. The trip was taken just after the close of the revolutionary war, when he was temporarily free from public cares, and was in the interests of a commercial union between the Potomac and the Great Lakes.

This journal is an interesting and unfamiliar chapter of the patriot's life, and brings out the fact that the west owes to him a special debt, in addition to the country's obligation to the leader of its struggle for independence. Washington's youthful experiences as surveyor and his march with Braddock gave him a taste for the wilderness, and turned his eyes across the mountains to the fertile lands which he knew would one day be teeming with people. His good business head showed him the importance of easy communication with that country, and it was his suggestion, made in connection with the improvement of the Potomac, that led to the policy of exploration and national survey work that the government has ever since followed. That policy has been of incalculable value in the "winning of the west," and had it not been followed in the early years there would not have been men enough and means enough to save the west from English and French aggression. In view of this fact, the author of the book declares that "there is almost no exaggerating the influence of Washington's attitude toward the west." He was a prophet of expansion and a promoter of internal improvements, and "had a profound influence on our early economic history."

Washington was not a statesman by choice or taste, any more than Grant was. His splendid business capacity made him a good president when once installed, but it was his glory as a military leader that made him president, rather than the arts of statecraft. Washington in our day would be a successful business man, and perhaps nothing more. The same clear judgment, broad vision and cool-headedness that make a business man succeed in our day, were invaluable in the leader of a nation in its economic infancy, and Washington's prophetic part in developing the west deserves to be remembered.

Perhaps Mr. Murphy could now answer Jerome's question, "Where did you get it?" The solar plexus is very near the spot where it happened.

Enforcing Political Laws.

THE statement from Mayor McClellan that his campaign for mayor of New York cost him nothing deceives nobody. It is possible that Mr. McClellan spent no money, but the fact does not raise him above the moral grade of other candidates who spent money and spent it liberally. If Mr. McClellan spent no money, money was spent for him, and money that Mr. McClellan would scorn to handle. Tammany does not wage campaigns on air nor on promises to pay. It disburses hard cash and lots of it.

The subject of campaign expenditures is a difficult one to cover in any law looking to a limitation of the amounts expended. Candidates may make technically correct reports of expenditures which are really most dishonest reports, since they say nothing of money spent in their behalf. It is these sums which corrupt the ballot, when it is corrupted, because they are nearly always handled by the lowest class of political heelers. Some way must be found to gather in complete statistics of political expenditures, including those of candidates, candidates' friends and retainers and campaign committees.

Such laws have been enacted by many states, but in the old American way their enforcement is made a dead letter because of that sporting sense which makes our people yearn to be known as game losers. Nobody wants to take an office for which his opponent apparently received a plurality of the votes, no matter how he got them. This attitude is a false one since it is not primarily the question of who shall obtain the office that is involved, but the purity of the election itself in which all citizens have an equal interest.

We have an idea that if the laws against excessive expenditures for campaign purposes were enforced once and some shining light in politics turned out in disgrace, there would be more honesty in politics than there is now.

Senator Foraker's manful effort to bring about what the president desires without bringing about what the railroads do not desire has a selvdige of paths.

A Man's Equipment.

A FAIRLY equipped gentleman, says the Clay Center (Kan.) Times, carries quite a kit of tools. There is a jackknife, a matchbox, a cigar-cutter, a nailfile, a handkerchief, a fountainpen, a bunch of keys, leadpencils, cigars, eyeglasses, notebook, old letters and a cardcase.

To carry these he has five pockets in his vest, six in his coat, five in his trousers, and in winter four in his overcoat. When a man goes to a winter entertainment all he has to do is to stuff his cap in his overcoat, take the coat off and sit on it, and he is comfortably fixed for the evening. His clothes are even an advantage to him, for by sitting on his coat he adds three inches to his stature and correspondingly to his chances of seeing the stage.

Compare this advanced state of civilization with the condition of a woman who carries a shopping-bag in which she must thrust her whole belongings. When she goes to use her purse it is sure to be at the very bottom of the heap. Her handkerchief and twenty small articles which she has purchased overtop it and must be removed one at a time and laid on the store counter.

Counting human time as being on average worth fifteen cents an hour, woman loses every day \$2,347,382.45. This money would pay the national debt in about a year; would buy the street railway system of any large city in a month; would dig the Panama canal in a year, on the sea-level plan. Yet women accept their lot comparatively uncomplainingly.

Notwithstanding Boston has two or three candidates for mayor pledged to municipal ownership, the car companies go right ahead corning them up on the back platform.

Hearing From Alaska.

CONGRESS will have less chance to forget about Alaska during the coming session than heretofore. A convention of Alaskans was held in Seattle this week, made up of representatives from Nome and the Seward peninsula constituting the western district; from Valdez and Fairbanks and the valleys of the Copper and the Tanana in the middle district, and from Ketchikan, Juneau and other points in the archipelago. This is probably the most representative body ever got together in the interest of Alaskan affairs.

The principal thing done was to select three delegates—Richard Ryan of Nome, C. M. Johansen of Fairbanks and ex-Governor A. P. Swineford of Ketchikan—to go to Washington and present the claims of Alaska during the coming session of congress. What this delegation is to work for and what Alaska wants are set out in a series of resolutions adopted by this convention. They provide for revision of the mining laws so that the iniquitous power of attorney shall be eliminated by which one can monopolize a whole mining district by filing on adjacent claims in the name of friends. This has been a great handicap to Alaska and results in a sort of dog-in-the-manger policy which is seriously delaying development of the district. It is desirable not only to discontinue the exercise of the power of attorney, but some means should be found by which to undo the harm which it has done. The recommendation of the convention that a cash assessment of \$25 per annum on each claim be substituted for the annual labor assessment of \$100 now required by law might help some, because the \$25 would mean actual outlay while the labor assessment is usually manipulated so as to be practically a farce.

The convention wanted the \$25 cash assessment applied on the construction and maintenance of wagon roads and trails; asked for an appropriation of a million dollars for the building of wagon roads and trails; favored the application of the earnings of the cable and telegraph system to the extension of cable and land lines; approved the appointment of United States commissioners to relieve federal judges of their administrative duties; asked for an increase in the number of judges, better lighthouse service, which would imply the exercise of more common-sense in the construction of lighthouses and beacons than has been displayed heretofore; and that the government make provision for the care of the Indians, the natives of the district having heretofore been neglected by the government and being for the most part in great distress.

These are the important recommendations of the convention and they are all in order. Alaska is entitled to a "square deal," but hasn't had it. It is not only entitled to it as a matter of justice to the people of the district but it will pay our government to devote some time and money to improving the means of transportation and communication and in that way promoting the development of the great natural resources of Alaska. The principal trouble is that the people do not know what they have got in that territory. It has not engaged the attention of their representatives in congress because those representatives have never understood what the resources of the district are. Some progress has been made recently toward acquainting the government with the facts, the presence of the delegates will do more and altogether the prospects for Alaska are much improved by this Seattle conference.

It is now claimed that coffee drinking in England is the cause of many nervous disorders in other countries. When you travel take your coffee with you.

Give Posterity the Square Deal.

HAS America reached the stage where she may talk of density of population? We have three million square miles in America proper and eighty million people. Twenty-seven to the square mile is not density. But nearly one-half of the people live in cities where they occupy scarcely any space at all. The people of Minneapolis are eight to the acre. The people of Greater New York average about two hundred to the acre. This leaves many less per acre to cover the great outdoors of the country. But not all the acres which lie beneath the stars and stripes are habitable. Leaving out those which are unavailable, the population of rural America is not yet twenty to the square mile. A square mile is 640 acres, so there is no apparent crowding.

Calculations of the total population this country would sustain run all the way from twice the present number to ten times. Think of ten times eighty million Americans living in the present America proper. Think of 100,000,000 voters! It is possible, it is probable, that the great-grandchildren of some of the present citizens in America may be voters in a country like that. Let us not say that they will not be able to sustain free institutions in such a swarming country lest we convict ourselves of pessimism. The fathers of the republic would have trembled could they have foreseen a republic stretching from ocean to ocean and containing four times as many electors as there were inhabitants at the time of the revolution.

Our duty is not to doubt their ability to maintain free America, but to take care that we hand them on an America clean and pure. Let us give posterity a square deal.

Has St. Paul been stealing our football advertising and lying about the location of the game? Hurry up that Y. M. C. A. building.

The Rebate.

RAY STANNARD BAKER makes an interesting point in his article in the current issue of McClure's Magazine on "Railroad Rebates" when he compares a freight rate to a tax and a rebate to a discrimination in taxes. Mr. Mellen, of the New York, New Haven & Hartford, calls a freight rate a tax. "A railroad," he says, "lives by levying a tax upon the community." The railroad rate is fairly comparable to a tax for the reason that the railroad is a public servant or agent. It is authorized to do certain things by the state on the theory that it can do them better than the state. It is a private business only in a secondary sense. It is clothed with powers that do not belong to the individual and is given those powers on the theory that it will use them so as to serve all the public just alike under like conditions.

The railroad rate being regarded as a tax, suppose the city of Minneapolis, having assessed merchandise at a certain proportion of its value and having valued the stocks of the different merchants and collected the tax, were to hand back a part of it to some of them and not to others. That would not be any more unfair than the railroad rebate. And if the city were to do such an unjust thing what a row there would be when it was found out.

Do People Like Humbug?

P. T. BARNUM once said, "The people like to be humbugged" and the saying has passed into a proverb. It has become a matter of common belief that the people actually enjoy being defrauded. At the same time nothing is so palpably untrue. Nobody likes to be humbugged and nobody knew it better than Barnum. He knew that the people liked to be startled with new, strange and untoward events or spectacles and he knew that this public yearning gave great opportunities for humbug. But Barnum himself took good care not to humbug the people. He spent thousands of dollars to "make good." If ever he did descend to fraud he got and took his punishment.

It would appear that Barnum's remark was only a half statement of the truth and therefore a lie. People do not like to be humbugged. The merchant who advertises great bargains takes mighty good care to have the bargains there. He knows that if he does not the people will not answer his advertisements the second time. The politician who makes promises tries very hard to make good on them, knowing that if he does not the people will be unlikely to trust him again. The preacher who draws great crowds to his church with a species of horseplay in the pulpit runs the chance of losing his audience. He finds that his usefulness in the community depends not so much on the amount of noise he makes but on the amount of character he represents.

The world is so full of instances of the love of the genuine that it is a piece of folly to be led from the path of rectitude in business, in politics or in religion by the false aphorism "The people like to be humbugged."

Again the testimony shows George W. Perkins, vice president of the New York Life, in his little act of shaking hands with George W. Perkins, vice president of J. P. Morgan & Co., and leaving a little change in his palm. George is a wonderful performer.

Greatness and Poverty.

THE president of the French academy of fine arts has recently warned artists against marrying. "If you marry rich," he said to the students, "you will be caught in a special whirl fatal to honest toil toward perfection. If you marry poor you must paint for money, not for art."

It depends somewhat on the man. The artist who is drawn into a social whirl merely because his wife has money is probably too weak to travel far toward perfection. The artist who marries poor generally has the best of it, since in the possession of a home and of some one to stimulate his ambition he has something which more than compensates for the drawbacks of poverty.

Erskine, the great lawyer, began life as a soldier. He married and had children and an income which was poor compared with the needs of his family. He conceived the idea of becoming a lawyer. He has left an eloquent and pathetic account of his feelings when he tried his first case. The lawyers against him were experienced, able and cool. Erskine was nervous and half afraid. He all but broke down in the beginning of his address to the jury but says, "I felt as tho my children were tugging at my gown and saying, 'Now, father, is the time to get us bread.'" Under the stimulus of this idea he pulled himself together, went on and made a speech which marked him as the coming jury lawyer of Great Britain. He never complained that his early marriage and early poverty held him down. In fact it was the prime motive in his desire to get up in the world. Without a family he might have been always content to hang about the barracks and play soldier. What is it Burns says? "Such moving things as wives and weans Wad mave the very hert o' stanes."

The grand opera season in New York recalls a local paper's opening of the Minneapolis Auditorium. In New York "from footlights to roof," says an observer, "the great auditorium was ablaze with the flash of jewels and the interplay of the delicate tints of precious fabrics. Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt's gown was of bright red silk veined with chiffon. She wore diamond shoulder bars instead of shoulder straps."

Bishop Turner of the African Methodist church says he has no use for the supreme court and the members can just sneak into heaven without any help from him. That is not a nice way for a man who has his ticket to act.

The coal operators deny trust purposes in their organization. It is probably a literary affair, meeting to vote on the six best books of the month and the like.

Gage E. Tarbell suggests that the proper life insurance reform is to be found in "complete publicity." Wonder how he found it out.

The republican party in New York now looks on Senator Depeuw about as the city of St. Paul regards the idea of an ice palace.

Emperor Menelik sent a lion's skin to President Roosevelt. This is fine for the president but it is rather rough on the lion.

Hetty Green is 70 years old and has more than \$70,000,000. Yet she would not enjoy an evening at the skating rink!

Seventy-two to six! In some games they would stop it before it reached this point.

And Haakon VII made a touchdown at Christiania.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The New York publishers, Quick, Sellers & Co., announce the following books for young people: "Luck and Pluck; or, the Boy Grafter of New York," and "Little Rollo Learning to Write Insurance."

THAT RUN DOWN FEELING.

Kansas City Journal. Automobiling is recommended by physicians as a health brace, on the theory, probably, that it is the pedestrian who has that run down feeling.

SAD WHEN SERIOUS

Kansas City Journal. The more Mark Twain discusses politics seriously the more the public is impressed that he is at his best when writing as a humorist.

IMPERTINENT CURIOSITY.

Detroit News. Nothing so sorely disturbs the average Michigan congressman as to ask him questions about some matter of genuine public moment.

THAT GANG MONUMENT.

Philadelphia Record. That monument to Quay will have to serve for the entire gang.

With the Long Bow

"Eye nature's walks, shoot folly as it flies."

How Fads in the Public Schools Have Ruined the Prospects in Life of Our Small Boy and Made Him Able to Do Something with His Hands—An Object Lesson in Present-Day Methods of Education.

These fads in the public schools are ruinous to education. For instance our small boy wasted his time learning how to make a pretty fairish porch chair last year. It isn't the kind of education we had. In those days the teacher gave out mental problems like this:

"If it takes 200 yards of lineum to make a hippopotamus a bath robe, how long will it take a cockroach, with a wooden leg, to bore a hole thru a brick?"

There is where you get the mental discipline that enables a man to rise in the world until he is worth \$4 or \$5 a week to any corporation.

Will Chamberlain in the Dakota Herald doffs his hat to the plain, brown hen. "Fabulous wealth of diamonds beyond the Vaal, the glittering splendors of the Rand and Homestake are as petty dreams of opulence when compared with this low-voiced maid in feathers."

"Yet for all her superb labors she is frequently condemned to a coop where the winds whistle thru the cracks, and the blizzard-wafted snows sift bitterly."

But biddy gets even with the man that treats her in this way. Instead of putting thought into the egg business she puts it into keeping warm and thickening up her feathers. If you want to get dividends out of the hen you must finance her with comfortable quarters.

Mrs. H. E. Hamlin of Charles Mix county in South Dakota heard an outcry that sounded like a combination of a small hot baby and a stone crusher working together. She ran out into the yard and saw a good-sized catamount that had come in from the timber to engage the dogs, and that was proceeding to nip out pieces of dog while these faithful guardians were putting up a brand of canned fight that resembled a Cossack drill in Odessa. Mrs. Hamlin ran in for "father's" rifle and, being at home with firearms, she stood around waiting to get a shot, but found she could not do so without endangering the dogs. Finally Mrs. Hamlin succeeded in landing on the brute's skull with the clubbed gun, and the dogs instantly did the rest. The wildcat will be stuffed and preserved as a warning.

Wonder where dear old Linevitch is in this time of stress in the army? Picking illias in Manchuria, probably. Perchance teaching a Bible class among his veterans.

When a reporter called up by telephone Mrs. McCurdy, the wife of the life insurance genius, he found that lady good and angry, and she called him down roughly so that his soul was rejoiced, and he printed her harsh words in the paper and made copy of them. When you get angry the other fellow always has the advantage.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has returned from abroad where he went in search of health, tho there is little to show that there is any more health abroad than at home. John D. Jr. has not recovered and has announced that he will not resume work with his Sunday school class. It is said that the notoriety connected with the class grates on John D. Jr., and he does not like the way Henry H. Rogers smiles when he sees him. It is suspected that Henry H. Rogers also grates on young John D., and there is a bare possibility that father also grates on young John D. It is feared that young John D. takes after his mother's side of the family, and is too sensitive to people who "grate" on one. But my goodness, if you are going into the game that father plays you must expect people to "grate" on you, and you must roughen up so you don't mind it. Father did.

Booth Tarkington had just finished a chapter on the true Indiana novel, the scenes of which were laid in Nottingham forest, when his wife informed him that the coal shovel was scraping on the bottom of the bin and that the coal was practically gone. "Now, by my halldom," quoth the author, "would't bring news of lack to a weary traveler on the moon?"

"Ye an' I would't," rejoined his wife, "lest perchance the weary traveller have his neck frosted in vain attempts to extract the pleasing warmth from you gray ashes' sodden pile."

"'Tis well," said the author with a sigh, "I will forthwith have words with that baseborn churl, the coal man, immediately, if not to once."

The author took his hat and proceeded gloomily to the coal man's cave.

"I must," he mused within himself, "speak in terms that this good yokel may digest."

"My good fellow, tell me, an' hast thou coal en-kennelled still within thy donjon keep?"

"'Yes."

"Then see to it at once, prithee, that Mrs. Tarkington's bin be filled therewith, that we may sup and rest in peace this night with grateful warmth."

The coal man sent it up, but there was a mistake in the bill in his favor of \$3, and no one even noticed it.

SCALE OF INSURANCE UNION

Indianapolis News. The Metropolitan Life, it seems, likewise paid the union scale to its higher officials.

LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE

Don't disturb the bow-legged bulldog that is gnawing at a bone.
Don't disturb a sleeping tiger for amusement of your own.
Don't disturb a mule to witness how its hind legs may be shown;
They live longest who remember to let well enough alone.

Don't disturb the bird that warbles a gay ditty in the tree,
And the bumblebee goes humming: "Kindly do not bother me;"
When the baby's sweetly sleeping do not bother it to see
What the unproclaimed condition of its appetite may be.

Don't disturb the gun that's rusty, but discreetly shy away;
Tho its trigger may be missing, let the poor old weapon stay
Where your great-grandfather put it; they live longest who delay
When it comes to hunting troubles they may find some future day.

Don't disturb it when you find a peaceful stick of dynamite,
Don't disturb the low-browed bully to see whether he will fight,
Don't disturb the busy-burglar whom you hear down stairs at night,
For the world is full of promise, and the future may be bright.

—Chicago Record-Herald.