

THE JOURNAL

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Leopold's Congo Crimes.

The civilized world cannot be certain just what to make of Leopold II, king of the Belgians. It entrusted him with the government of the Congo Free State largely because it was impressed with his general air of benevolence and because he was a monarch of a neutral small power in Europe.

Thus this great territory on both sides of the equator, containing one million square miles, one-third the area of the United States proper, and filled with a native population, was handed over to one man whose benevolent aspect entirely deceived the powers of Europe.

The main export of the Congo is rubber. The white man wants rubber, but he cannot get it. The miasmatic swamps in which he would have to seek it would kill him. He must depend on the native for it and the native must be whipped into producing it.

But Leopold does know it and he is steeped to the elbows in the crimes of the Congo. He is the chief grinner by the output of rubber, and it is to provide money for his singular domestic establishments that the men are maimed, children slaughtered and women worse than slaughtered in Africa.

The association wants the United States government stirred to take some action. What should be done is first to get a new conference of the powers which organized the Congo Free State. If it can be had and the facts laid before it there will be an end to Leopold's maladministration.

A New Scheme of Taxation.

The city of Berlin is considering a scheme of taxation which will if effective attack one of the faults of modern political economy complained of by Henry George in his "Progress and Poverty." Mr. George in advocacy of his single tax scheme, suggested the taxation of the rental value out of the land.

George's scheme was at least more consistent. He wanted to make it unprofitable for men to hold private property in land at all. The city of Berlin merely wants to make even success in land speculation of dubious benefit.

Richard Mansfield felt that he will give up the effort to elevate the stage after 1909.

Tillman's Opportunity.

Senator Aldrich doubtless thought to ridicule the whole movement for rate reform by moving that Senator Tillman report the bill to the senate, but he will probably fall. The important thing is not who reports the bill, but the fact that the Hepburn bill is reported.

Naturally John Mitchell does not want the just fame he has received obscured by a seat in congress.

More Money for Waterways.

The National Rivers and Harbors congress which assembled in Washington in January, is preparing for an aggressive campaign for more liberal treatment of natural transportation routes than has hitherto been accorded by the general government.

This committee asks for \$50,000,000 annually for rivers and harbors, which is less than 7 per cent of the government's revenues. The appropriations for the past ten years have averaged less than \$20,000,000 a year.

Undoubtedly the waterways of the country might be made to render a much more valuable service to commerce and agriculture if they were properly improved, but popular sentiment has not been insistent upon large appropriations for river and harbor improvement.

Another playmate of President McKinley, one Enoch Hetsel, has recently died. As evidence that President McKinley was a thoughtful boy, it is pointed out that Hetsel was 12 years old when Mr. McKinley was born.

An Important Decision.

The decision of the United States supreme court in the case of the Chesapeake & Ohio and New York, New Haven & Hartford railroads in the coal-carrying case is regarded as more important in its bearings upon the relation of the railroads to interstate commerce than the Northern Securities decision.

The case brings out the essential bad policy of railroads being dealers in the commodities they carry. The way this has worked out in the coal region is that the railroads have published prohibitive tariffs which compelled the independent operators to sell their product to the coal-carrying roads at

whatever price they could get. Meanwhile the railroads were secretly deviating from their tariffs in carrying their own coal at lower rates, while pretending that they were only selling their coal at a lower price than somebody else.

When the doctor calls to take the pulse of H. H. Rogers he will probably be met with a flat refusal on the part of the recipient patient to put out his tongue.

Post Check Currency.

The check currency plan, which has been before congress for some time, and which has always met with strenuous opposition from Senator Thomas G. Platt for the openly avowed reason that it would interfere with his express money order business.

Another device for sending money thru the mails is the use of stamps, a cumbersome method and a use of stamps for which they were never intended. Thousands of dollars every hour are transported by means of these little government stamps.

The blocking of the required legislation is a sample of the power of logrolling politics. Two men, one in the legislative, another in the executive department, have been able to prevent congress from coming to a vote on the subject. The executive opponent has been removed and the legislative enemy is crippled in influence.

Dr. Charles E. Hewitt of the divinity department of Chicago university says that a minister ought not to acquire money in return for the use of his portrait and an eloquent letter of recommendation in which he thanks God for anybody's "Pure Guff" whiskey.

If you have broken any of the laws of the state you will be interested to learn that the new code will positively be on the market on Monday. Of course, if you have been law abiding you will manage to get along without it.

Castro has come back from the dance and handed down an appeal for true brotherhood among the nations. Castro himself exemplifies the brother-in-law theory.

It is rather strange that with Divine Right Baer making proclamations we hear nothing from David M. Parry, Caspar and Pollex were not wont to be separated.

WHAT? PROPS FOR BLINKERS?

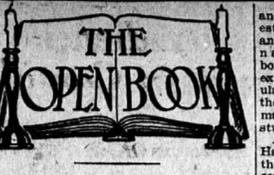
All the Judges in Minnesota are returning their free railroad passes. The Minnesota Journal is giving to both oral and written expression of English in the schools of the northwest.

AND RIGHTLY

When one remembers that in this little room have met the editor so many who have made, or contributed to the making of, the literary history of America, and in no small degree to the making of the history of the nation in a much wider sense, he admits the warrant for calling the place a "holy of holies."

FIT FOR THE BEST HOMES

I wish to commend the incentive which The Minneapolis Journal is giving to both oral and written expression of English in the schools of the northwest.



By W. P. Kirkwood.

JOURNEYS AMONG THE MAGAZINES: JOURNEY II.—New York, Feb. 22.—When one looks for haunted houses he does not go into the heart of a great city; he goes to the suburbs or the country, where in lonely valley or secluded spot he is sure to find some tumble-down, forsaken-looking place.

Harper's Monthly is far from being in the material form of the work of split hands, yet in a very true sense the spirits of departed men, and women, too, have a part in making the magazine what it is from month to month and year to year.

Minnesota Politics

S. A. Langum Says Chairman Hamlin Should Redeem His Promise of a Meeting of the State Committee, March 1.—Felig Won't Run for Treasurer.—E. A. Nelson Looks in on Twin Cities.

Early convention talk is general, and friends of nearly all the candidates are anxious to have things come to an early decision. In the interests of a winning campaign they are anxious to head off congress making any decision as possible.

The Times can scarcely credit the oft-repeated story that Conde Hamlin, chairman of the republican state central committee, has been persuaded to change his mind as to the calling together of the full committee about March 1, looking to the calling of an early state convention.

Chairman Hamlin is away from home but it is said he will call a meeting soon after his arrival, before the end of March.

The senator from Brown" has occupied a good share of the public eye of late. Some of the long-headed politicians of the state have been suggesting his name as one available for the governorship.

George W. Somerville was born in Indiana in 1856, and came to Olmsted county with his parents in 1866. He graduated in 1876 from the Rochester high school, and in 1879 from the law department of the University of Michigan.

He settled at Sleepy Eye, and served as county attorney of Brown county from 1882 to 1888. He was elected to the state senate from the nineteenth district in 1898, and re-elected in 1902. He is interested in a new process for removing smut from grain, and as it promises to bring the owners a good income, there is no doubt about his ability to pay his assessment to the state committee.

The Owatonna Chronicle, which some time ago declared James M. Diment did not authorize announcements of his candidacy, now says he must not be considered out of it, but is a strong factor in the situation.

The Willmar Republican-Gazette says it is authorized to state that Mr. Felig will not be a candidate for any elective state or county office. He is well satisfied with the position he now holds and hopes to be reappointed. Felig, who is now supervising inspector of country elevators, has been considered a possible candidate for state treasurer.

and adorned with much that would interest the readers of the Harper periodicals and of this department of The Journal. Of chief interest perhaps, is a border of paintings by Edwin A. Abbey, executed while he was a part of the regular staff of the Harper magazines. They possess the qualities that have made Mr. Abbey a master, and would bear much close study, which lack of time denied me.

Across the counting room from Colonel Harvey's office, is what may be named the initiation room. Here the manuscripts are read, and thru this office many a writer has found his way to fame, or to oblivion.

Another no place in New York has so many or such rich literary associations as this old iron temple of Harper & Brothers, down beside the elevated railroad and almost under the New York approach to the Brooklyn bridge. It is haunted, but by benign ghosts, whose presence it does one good to feel the thrill of, and of which none ever need be afraid. Has it not perpetuated Harper's Monthly, a finer legacy to Americans than a great hospital or a magnificent university?

THE RATEMAKERS ARE LAWMAKERS

THE FORMER ARE MORE POTENT THAN THE LATTER.

Laws May Be Made and Unmade as the Majority of the People Elect—Rates of Transportation in the Hands of the Rate-maker Who Controls Destinies of Individuals and Communities—The Price of Every Article in Every Place Fixed by One from Whom There Is Now No Appeal.

W. D. Washburn, Jr., has made considerable study of the railroad regulation problem. He is today the most important factor in modern industrial life. The man who makes it is more potent than the man who makes the laws that control the ordinary life of the several states of the nation itself.

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E. A. Nelson of Hallock, one of the merry crew of candidates for secretary of state, is in the twin cities after a party tour of the state. He says he only finds four candidates in Minneapolis, and six outside, all of them confident of success. Mr. Nelson believes that most of them will be disappointed. Nelson seems to be a target for some soreheads, who charge him with having fought Dunson two years ago. He was a Collins man, but the truth is that after the convention he executed a strategic change of front, a la James A. Martin, and campaigned for Duncun.

Victor L. Johnson of Center City, Chicago county, has announced his candidacy for the senate in the thirty-second district. He was formerly county treasurer.

Charles B. Cheney.

the undevoted energetic business men of small capital by discrimination in favor of the stronger competitors, and expressed the opinion that our government could not long exist if the railroads were permitted to continue such abuse of their powers. This remedy for existing evils was clothed in the interstate commerce commission or some similar body with adequate powers to alter a rate or to place a given rate in effect subject only to reversal by the United States courts. This commission should also be enabled to control the issuance of real-estate and bonds, should have access to corporations' books and should have power to make decisions in connection with rebates and demurrage charges and other matters of the same character.

Speaking of the railroad laws passed by the last session of the Minnesota legislature, he stated that one of these gave the railroad commissioners of Minnesota jurisdiction over freight rates and classifications and over the inspection books of all carriers; second, forbids rebates and discriminations of all sorts with a penalty of \$5,000 against the giver or the taker of the rebate or "gross"; and also petitioned to abolish private car lines and to give the interstate commerce commission actual power to enforce a rate.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat. Bertha Galland will begin her engagement in David Belasco's "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" at the Auditorium on Monday next. The play enjoyed in New York a run of 302 nights at the Edinboro Theater.

Manager Elliott sprung a pretty surprise on patrons of the University last night when he palmed off the Four Comedy Hills, who were the big hit of last week's bill, as amateur performers. The occasion was the usual Friday night's amateur show at the University. The comedy performers took part, but the appearance of the Hills made the others look like the proverbial 30 cents.

Those who made merry were Martin Kotella, a student musician; E. Drake, contortionist; Eric Peterson in Norwegian folk songs, and A. D. Bymond, fancy trick bicycle rider. Others who appeared were Orville Johnson, a student; Chandler, comedians; Bennett brothers, comedians; Alfred Finlayson, Frank Barthol, Charlie Morey and Eugene and Arthur White, singers. The comedy performers, with minstrel "business" made a great hit.

MAKING A MARTYR OF HIM

Nebraska State Journal. A Connecticut library board has disbarred the writings of Jack London from the library in their charge, on the ground that he "publicly announces he is an anarchist, devoting the construction of the business interests of Minneapolis.

Affects Every Citizen. The extent to which the railroad rate vitally affects the personal fortune of every citizen may be roughly measured by the amount spent in the construction of the business interests of Minneapolis.

Under the heading of equity in railroad management, he proceeded to discuss the entire railroad system, and how it properly and justly utilized, taking into account the circumstances under which the railroads were built and certain evils of which the nation has a right to demand positive correction. He last, briefly stated were: First, over-capitalization; second, rebates, discriminating and unfair rates; third, minor abuses such as demurrage, stockpiling charges and private car lines. He would not deny to the railroads generous profits on their investment and the entire government should have it forgotten, however, that at the time of building there wasn't any real risk in legitimate railroad building. Few railroad builders really ever had any great cash investment in their lines. Most roads have been built largely from the sale of bonds and the profits of the enterprise have been secured by the issuance of stock to its promoters. The government has already given to the railroads to assist in railroad building 155,000,000 of acres—a territory five times the size of Pennsylvania. Additive to time.

Over-capitalization. Over-capitalization he regarded as the greatest evil of the railroad system. In 1901 the capitalization of the railroads of the United States amounted to \$11,688,177,991 and has since been materially increased. In Minnesota the capitalization has increased from \$273,000,000 in 1901 to \$845,000,000 in 1904. This is an increase of \$572,000,000 in three years with an increased mileage in the state of only 475 miles. At a maximum figure of \$40,000 a mile such mileage should not have cost over \$19,000,000. This leaves an apparent valuation of \$50,000,000 added to the indebtedness of the railroads in this state without a corresponding increase in real value of assets in Minnesota. To pay interest on this fictitious stock would require an increase of \$2,000,000 in freight rates in the state of Minnesota. Over-capitalization is apt to be considered as one of the faults of the railroads, the innocents are skinned in Wall Street. As a matter of fact, it is one of the most threatening dangers overshadowing the economic life of the nation. Watered stock may not pay interest today or tomorrow, but it remains constantly in existence as a means by which unfair rates may be kept in force even after they have become extortionate. For a clever people have taken advantage of the Americans' long time to discover that 6 or 8 per cent on watered stock is 13 or 16 per cent upon real values. The issuance of watered and worthless stock has been a primary method by which the state in behalf of the citizens who pay unjust rates that does not really exist.

Rebates and Discrimination. Mr. Washburn then discussed the effect of rebates and discriminations—

Chicago Journal. A London doctor says death is a bad habit, and unlike many other bad habits, it is almost always fatal.

Kansas City Journal. The oil drill at Darrow was christened with champagne and struck a strong flow of water. Now, if it had only been christened with water—

IN THE PURSUIT OF GAIN

Perverse deploping of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, suspecting that gain is godliness; from such withdraw yourself.—I. Timothy, 6, 8.

PINCHED! Boston Globe. It is estimated that a cent change hands about 150,000 times in the course of its life. Then Russell Sage gets hold of it.

CHURCH TROUBLES IN ST. PAUL, MINN. It gets religion back a lot, if it gives the angels everywhere. When saintly men get up of prayer, they get other bits of all religions. They took his pay and cut it down. Until it looked like thirty cents.

And when he came to pray and preach, To cheer the hearts of those who grieve, A deacon said, "I'll give you a word, And lend of grace, I do believe, Denied his rights before all men, And made a covert threat to flee— So heaven itself becomes a hell On earth when good men disagree."—Nebraska State Journal.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

ONE YEAR AGO

Feb. 24, 1905—Japanese fleet sails for Vladivostok. Minneapolis—Colonel Charles M. Wood, proprietor West hotel, dies. Leo Stock jumps from 105-17 to 115. St. Paul—State senate defeats the Peterson board of control bill.

TEN YEARS AGO

Feb. 24, 1895—London—Dr. Jameson arrives from South Africa and is arraigned in court upon charge of warring in a friendly nation. Washington—United States senate defeats tariff bill. Minneapolis—Female six-day bicycle race starts, Tillie Anderson in the lead.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Feb. 24, 1881—Washington—Senator Matt Carpenter of Wisconsin, dies. Minneapolis—E. W. Gaylord resigns as superintendent of the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad.

FEB. 24 IN OTHER YEARS

1676—Deerfield, Mass., attacked by Indians. 1813—Battle between the Hornet and the Peacock. 1824—George William Curtis, author, born. 1858—Washington, established. 1863—Arizona territory formed from New Mexico. 1865—Bill to impeach President Johnson introduced in congress.