

THE JOURNAL

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Presidential Speculation.

Speculation is already active in Washington as to the probable selections for the presidency by the two leading parties in 1908. Consideration of the matter is precipitated in a measure by the fact that one candidate is already engaged in an active campaign.

Mr. Hearst has displayed great voting-getting power in his almost successful campaign against Tammany in New York city, and is now extending his lines throughout the state. The democrats want a winner and while doubtless many of the up-state democrats of New York would be slow to endorse Mr. Hearst's radical views, they will follow him if they see a chance of party success.

Mr. Bryan must not be lost sight of in canvassing presidential possibilities, for although he labors under the heavy handicap of two successive defeats at the polls, he is still a man of great influence in his party and by no means a negligible quantity in connection with the nomination.

That is one side of the case. In the radical party—radical on the tariff, radical on municipal ownership and radical on anything else that may present itself. The conservatism of the country will be again forced, as in 1896, to look to the republican party for safety and protection, and the conservative party, seeking to unite in itself all conservative elements, will have to have a conservative candidate. Fairbanks, Shaw, Taft and Root are the men most talked of, but the probabilities are much less clearly defined on the republican side than they are on the democratic, where it seems to be altogether probable that it must be either Hearst or Bryan.

The Indianapolis News is "stumped." "It is pretty hard," the News says, "for some of us to understand how the western colleges are going to eliminate all brutality and unnecessary danger from football next season, after we all have been assured on such unquestionable authority that there are no brutality and unnecessary danger in the game." The brutality and unnecessary violence are not for publication, but as a guarantee of good football.

Integrity of the Crop Report. The favorable action of the senate yesterday, upon a bill providing for adequate punishment for men in the government employ who use their information with reference to crops for personal advantage, or give out information surreptitiously, will meet with general approval. The pity of it is that there was not some law under which Holmes and the others who figured in the recent great scandal could get what was their due.

The most unfortunate part of the connivance of Holmes with the cotton market manipulators, and their operations in the speculative market, was not that it was wrong in itself, but that, having come to light, it brought general discredit upon the department, and gave rise to much suspicion probably not warranted. The wheat farmers very naturally inferred that if there was a leak in the cotton reports for the advantage of a certain clique, there might as readily be a leak in the wheat reports. Thus the whole work of the department came under suspicion, and it was even alleged that in the making up of all the government reports false figures were substituted for effect upon the markets.

The thing is over now and there is not likely to be a repetition of it. How much of the suspicion that followed the Holmes' disclosures was justified no one can say. Today the department is pretty well cleaned up and is likely to do better and more reliable work as

pleasing to Grand Army visitors, and the same kind of a device may be employed on other occasions with good effect. No city in the country has a compact business center better adapted to illumination and decoration, and we can make a very pleasing impression upon our visitors if this scheme is properly carried out.

The Cincinnati Enquirer wants to have the general staff invade China all by itself. On to Peking!

A Strange Oversight.

The state is about to sue the Great Western for back taxes, as far back as the statute of limitations will allow. The suit is to recover the difference between a 2 per cent gross earnings tax, which the system has always paid, and the 3 per cent assessed by general law up to 1905.

Why didn't the state sue before? There was just as much ground for action of this kind ten years ago as there is today. The whole question of the state's right to increase the tax on roads with territorial charters could have been settled when the agitation for a 4 per cent tax began. The state allowed the Great Western to go ahead paying 2 per cent during all the controversy. If the Great Northern and the Great Western can be made now to pay 4 per cent, then the Great Western should have been paying 3 per cent all these years. The same question of "perpetual contract" is involved, and it could and should have been taken into court a dozen years ago. When the senate lawyers were pleading that a 4 per cent law was unconstitutional, the means for settling the point were right at hand. If the state has a right to change the rate of taxation, we should have known it long ago. The state treasury would be richer by \$100,000 or more, in taxes from the Great Western, and the long litigation about to be commenced to collect 4 per cent from the Great Northern and the Great Western would be unnecessary.

It is passing strange that successive state administrations have overlooked such an obvious duty to be performed. The only comfort is that the courts may take a broader view of the proposition now than they would have done ten or a dozen years ago.

Excelsior went "dry." The owners of real estate would be justified in marking up their lots a few points today.

A Disappearing Tree.

White pine is not the only valuable forest product that is disappearing from Minnesota. The white cedar that is universally used in the northwest for telegraph and telephone poles is going fast, and operators estimate that it will be cleaned up in four or five years more, at the present rate. The demand for poles has increased at a tremendous rate in the last few years, owing to the extension of long-distance and rural telephone lines.

No satisfactory substitute for the white cedar is known in this part of the country. It withstands rot when placed in the ground, and for that reason the smaller trees are worked up into fence posts and used by the million in all parts of the northwest. Railroad ties and piling also call for it, but for telephone poles it is almost indispensable. It is light and strong, and the trees, which grow so closely together in swamps that the sun cannot break thru, are tall, straight and without branches for a long distance from the ground.

White cedar has disappeared from Michigan, and is practically gone in Wisconsin. Minnesota is furnishing the supply now for the whole middle west. Idaho has a white cedar of great size, but less desirable in some ways. When Minnesota has cut the last white cedar, everything will have to come from Idaho.

After Idaho, what? Nothing is being grown to take the place of the forests we are losing. By the time white cedar is gone we may have wireless telephones as well as wireless telegraphy. Nothing, however, can make up for the ruthless waste and extinction of a noble forest species, doomed because of its great usefulness to man.

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result of the severe criticisms that have been directed toward it. The fact that the conspirators escaped penal service is not likely to induce others to take the risk of trying to doctor the reports or give out advance information, now that provision has been made for severe punishment in any such case.

That man Hoffman, who is running against Mayor Smith in St. Paul, seems to have secured the opposition of the Pioneer Press, which throws cold water on the republican candidate every morning. Today it finds that the light vote at the primaries indicated "the want of a sharply-defined issue," or else "comparative contentment with present conditions"—the P. P. doesn't care a continental which. Its blind seal for party nominees is strangely transformed, and it now looks as though the O'Connor regime would not miss the Globe a great deal in the campaign that is on. "The city by this time knows 'Bob' Smith," says the P. P. "It has in the past been inclined to judge that his personal merits outweigh any official defects." "Official defects" seem still to be a trivial matter in the regard of the Pioneer Press.

Mr. Remp, the Wisconsin football star, told the legislative committee yesterday that football has great educational value for getting the students together. It certainly works fine as a get-together. No other influence we know of could pile twenty-two young fellows in such a compact and artistic heap.

Remp of Wisconsin scorned to pay his board bill when playing football, and now says he would favor a "full-paid professional team" for universities. He prefers it, apparently, to one that is only half paid.

The New York Herald asks whether the continuation of the earthquake shocks in the Antilles is ominous. People who live next door to the shocks may so consider them.

Alderman "Bathhouse John" of Chicago says, "gents' clothes is too plain this season." This is no excuse for the coal, oil, meat and gas trusts going thru them.

His brow was sad, his eye beneath Flashed like a falcon from its sheath. But still his voice in accents rung From off his parched and dusty tongue. Excelsior, Minn.

No robin has yet stood around and made a noise like spring.

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK

A Picture Shot to Pieces. To the Editor of The Journal. Last night, with orchestra fully adequate, stage settings elaborate, and a company of artists whose performances have more than made good their great reputation, the "Rigoletto" was produced at the Metropolitan theater. Enraptured by the story and drawn into the land of poetry and song, the audience sat spellbound. There came, in one act, a scene of intense interest, a time when every nerve hung on the song, and the soul was stirred deeply. Then behold—upon the scene, not indeed upon the stage, but well out in the aisle, half the audience on the right side of the house could see him, there came a man, of medium height, dressed in street attire, wearing a black derby hat, who glanced early and often at the scene, and finally came vigorously. Then appeared another man, shorter, wearing conventional street clothes of today and a soft hat. The two conversed quietly.

For many of the members of the machinery. But, alas, for the work of the artists. Gone was the illusion and shot to pieces the picture. The music was as sweet and the voices blended as perfectly. But the intrusion of the picture were the two men who lifted the picture out of the atmosphere of romantic old Italy into the present-day commonplace Minneapolis, and the one chewed gum entirely out of time with the orchestra.

Perhaps it is wrong to let oneself go to the points where the picture becomes a reality, but how can it be helped when everything that enters into the performance is so near perfection. One wonders, therefore, why, in a production so good, under management whose reputation for ability and honesty covers the country, more attention is not given to these minor details. It is true that the picture and silly conception that has gained ground among some people of fashion, whose artistic appreciation has not grown with their wealth, that it is common and provincial to be further interested in the real fashionable person has supposedly seen so much that it is no longer possible for him to become entranced, like the country bumpkin at a first performance. But there are enough of the other kind, who lose themselves in the beauties of the unfolding story, to make it worth the while of the management to see that the illusions are not dispelled by the intrusion of the picture of something entirely foreign to the scene. Some artists appreciate this. Henry Irving would annihilate a man who would mar one of his performances as that one was spoiled last night for a large part of the audience.

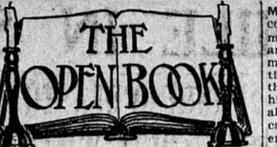
DR. RICHARD BURTON TO LECTURE IN SOUTH.—Dr. Richard Burton, who has been lecturing in the east for several weeks, is now in Duluth, where he will lecture, and also read from his new biblical play, "Rahab," for which he has already had a request for the privilege of stage production. Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. have taken his new play, "Rahab," which is shown as an impetuous oriental beauty in whom, notwithstanding her waywardness, the bonds of love and filial devotion are strong, while she is further attracted by a growing belief in the Jehovah of Israel. The climax centering around the fall of Jericho is said to be highly dramatic.

LANGUAGE LESSONS BY MINNEAPOLIS TEACHERS.—Old methods of instruction in grammar and composition have given way to new and better ones. The very clear recollection of learning to read by the "phonics" method, and being coached in terms that no average child could understand, and then of being expected to be able to express ourselves correctly when we tried to speak or write. Of course, the learning of such rules was a joyless process. Today we have dipped into Language Lessons from Literature and Language, Grammar and Composition, by Mrs. Alice Woodworth Conroy, of the Minneapolis schools, and Professor W. F. Webster, principal of the Minneapolis East high school, in collaboration. The dip has shown us how far present methods are superior to the old. The books are so good that one can see how fascinating the study of what were once considered the driest of subjects may become. We do not know how far such methods are in vogue. Certainly they ought to be in general. Space will not permit us to outline the methods. Perhaps it is sufficient to say that the aim is to induce in the child a love of the subject. The child is taught to analyze and to extract from the pen what things mean to him, things seen, heard or felt, and the teaching is largely by means of examples from the world of nature. The books are attractive from a mechanical standpoint. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, 45 and 50 cents.

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Wallace Favors Contract System for Canal Construction. The Engineering Magazine for March presents a significant contribution to the settlement of the Isthmian canal. In the John F. Wallace's article on "Plain Facts About the Panama Canal," he tells frankly the difficulties he found in attempting to carry out the work as chief engineer, and defines his belief that red tape and politics will always prevent efficient or economical construction under direct government control. He believes in the entire applicability and desirability of the contract system, and in fact just how he believes it should be employed. Incidentally, he suggests a plan for the operation of the Panama railroad. The article will extend and amplify the valued service rendered by Mr. Wallace's recent testimony before the senate investigating committee.



By W. P. Kirkwood.

JOURNEYS AMONG THE MAGAZINES. JOURNEYS, NO. 13.—New York, March 11.—A man on the streetcar the other evening was talking of New York. He said if he wanted to find any lady friend from out of town in New York city, he would not be certain to find her by going down to the Flatiron building, taking a position at the apex of the triangle, and simply waiting. His next remark was to go to the corner either on Broadway or Fifth avenue, Fifth avenue in this neighborhood is a great avenue for the parade of fashion. People from out of town like to see the Flatiron building.

It is interesting to readers of Scribner's Magazine to know that their favorite monthly comes from an office within a stone's throw of this famous corner. In a handsome building facing on Fifth avenue, E. L. Burlingame, the editor, and his associates prepare the material that goes into Scribner's. Their purpose is, which has ruled the magazine for eighteen and a half years, is that the magazine shall be the best of literature in the widest sense, that it shall depend upon its intrinsic value and interest of its articles rather than upon names of famous writers, and that its contents shall come from writers who have really something of value to say in addition to the ability to say it. Even a cursory glance at the magazine's history shows how admirably this purpose has been lived up to. Autobiography, history, serial stories, short stories, essays, sports and athletics, history, the drama, nature and kindred subjects, have all been represented again and again by writers of the highest rank.

In these days of colored illustrations it is interesting to note that Scribner's is in this direction. In the early nineties they had no colored illustrations. The innovation was at that time a sensational one and attracted much attention and criticism, but the critics were wrong since the colored illustrations have come to stay. The magazine is planning to give its readers some very good reading this year. Stories by Kate Douglas Wiggin, Richard Henry Stoddard, and others of like note have been arranged for. Another novel by Edith Wharton will be forthcoming next year. This is enough to show that there is to be no let down in the magazine's high standard of reading.

Interest in the magazine at the present time is increasing owing to the approaching climax of F. Hopkinson Smith's "The West" series, which completes Mr. Smith's trilogy of stories with some aspect of the sea as a dominating motive. Those who have read "Tom Grogan" and "The West" will not care to miss this latest story of Mr. Smith.

THE DIFFICULT FEAT OF PUTTING A NEW MAGAZINE ON ITS FEET.—Appleton's Booklovers Magazine is practically a new magazine. The Booklovers Magazine under its old management had a fairly good start, when it changed hands it had to be re-promoted. But the re-promotion has been successful. The new management has done well in giving a magazine of the highest literary quality, but one that at the same time comes very close to the heart of the people. It is to be strongly American rather than cosmopolitan. As between a story of deep general interest and a story of deep American interest, the American story gets the preference. As one of the editors said to me, other things being equal, a story from the west, typically American, will get the preference over a story from the east dealing with the tea-ble society life of New York or some of its environs.

It is no less the purpose of Appleton's Booklovers to go into the exposure business; nevertheless, when a story of vital interest contains an exposure of human frailty or corruption based upon fact, it is not to be rejected. It is purely an example of this to be seen in Rex E. Beach's story of rottenness in Alaska.

The editors believe that this policy has enabled them to attract to the booklovers the substantial start which is already theirs.

DR. RICHARD BURTON TO LECTURE IN SOUTH.—Dr. Richard Burton, who has been lecturing in the east for several weeks, is now in Duluth, where he will lecture, and also read from his new biblical play, "Rahab," for which he has already had a request for the privilege of stage production. Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. have taken his new play, "Rahab," which is shown as an impetuous oriental beauty in whom, notwithstanding her waywardness, the bonds of love and filial devotion are strong, while she is further attracted by a growing belief in the Jehovah of Israel. The climax centering around the fall of Jericho is said to be highly dramatic.

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THE GOLDEN GREYHOUND. A novel by Dwight Titton, author of "Miss Petticoat." New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard company, \$1.50.

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"Rigoletto" Is Well Sung By Most Artistic Cast

One does not realize how far the world of music has traveled in fifty years until he listens to two such vocalists as those who gave the Metropolitan opera house last evening by the English Grand Opera company, and "The Valkyrie," given the night before. Indeed, there is scarcely a singer in the world who gives the greatest love of the two operas, and yet greater strides in musical composition could scarcely be imagined than is apparent in the "Rigoletto" given last evening. It is true if "La Boheme" is substituted for the Wagner opera, in making the comparison.

Rigoletto belongs to the old Italian opera, and is in direct contrast to Verdi's later works. It abounds in the florid coloratura so dearly loved by the bel canto school of singers. Melody runs riot thru it, and melody is dearly loved by all from the newest to the greatest lover of music. Yet there is the difference between "Rigoletto" and "Otello," for instance, both Verdi operas, that the latter is a novel of the Mary J. Holmes type and one of Mrs. Humphrey Ward.

The presentation of the opera last evening was excellent. The mixed and male choruses all were well done. The quartet was handsomely mounted, with due regard for chronology and color combinations, and moved smoothly from the beginning. The opening ball scene is especially pretty, and the stately piece of the Jacobson boom opera is being sung is a charming interlude. The cast in most respects was a happy one. The title role was taken by Eddy Jacobson, and was a most consistent piece of work, and whether considered from the vocal or the dramatic standpoint, the role requires exceptional gifts and was splendidly filled. Mr. Jacobson's laws and principles fully explained. By M. S. Hess. Illustrated hands. Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. 75 cents.

Minnesota Politics

Governor Johnson Soon to Fill Two Vacancies on the Capitol Commission—Eddy Still Possible as a Legatee of the Jacobson Strength.

The five "surviving" members of the Capitol commission, as they styled themselves in their recent letter of defense to Governor Johnson, will soon have their number augmented by the appointment of two more members, to succeed H. W. Lambertson, deceased, and Colonel C. H. Gray, now minister to Sweden. As the board seems in no hurry to turn the building over, the governor is about to fill the vacancies. The law created a board of seven members, one from each of the congressional districts, which then numbered seven, and the governor was given the power to fill vacancies arising in any manner. The two new members will come from the first district and from the old sixth, including, the present eighth and most of the sixth.

The Mankato Free Press says that "sentiment among republicans for an enlarged cabinet is increasing. It certainly is, but increasing will not do much good unless some one gets action pretty quick.

"Checkers" will begin its second engagement at the Metropolitan next Sunday night, and if this engagement is successful it will bring the entire original company. The newcomer in the cast is Hans Roberts, who since the beginning of the present season has played the title role. He has made an unquestionable hit in the part, and both in acting and appearance bears a resemblance to his predecessor.

In these days of frenzied finance, when leaders of American industries are daily asked the embarrassing question, "Where