

George Ade Will Have Another Clever Article in The Journal Next Sunday.

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MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL



Get Best Results That's Why Minneapolis Merchants Use The Journal Most.

PUTER "GOT TO" A LOCAL LUMBERMAN

Man Who Made Sensational Gun-Play in Boston Remembered by C. A. Smith.

REMARKABLE CUNNING DECEIVED A LAWYER

Thousands Lost in Timber Land Deals with Shrewd Puter, Admits Mr. Smith.

A. C. Smith, a Minneapolis lumberman, who has just returned from the Pacific coast, figures he has lost between \$150,000 and \$200,000 as a result of his acquaintance and business deals with Stephen A. Douglas Puter, the fugitive from justice who escaped from a United States secret service officer at Boston yesterday by making a "gun-play" in the public street in front of the postoffice.

Mr. Smith considers himself a pretty good judge of human nature, but admits that he was completely taken in by Puter, whom he met in this city some six years ago. At that time Puter called on Mr. Smith to offer for sale some Pacific coast timber land.

"I will give Puter credit," said Mr. Smith today, "for being one of the smoothest individuals I ever met. He puts up a splendid front, has an unlimited amount of nerve and is a shrewd business man—but apparently absolutely unscrupulous."

"I look on most of these Pacific coast men who want to sell timber tracts as crooks," said Mr. Smith, "and in drawing up a contract with Puter, I was to pay him a flat figure an acre. It eventually turned out that he gave me clear title to the poorest lands, but those on which the best timber stood I never did get title to. In other transactions where he acted as my agent in direct purchase of land, I afterwards found he cleared for deals which are \$100,000 in actual cash by reporting the prices he paid in excess of the actual cost figures."

A year ago this month was the last time I ever saw Puter. He met me here in the hotel Nicolet. I am in a position where I must have \$2,000, he said, and I want you to give me an account for deals which are still pending between us. I was at that time looking up his crookedness, and although I suspected him, I had no proof. "I can't let you have a single cent," I replied. "Why," said Puter, "I have just returned from Washington where I have done things to clear title to lands that would put me behind prison bars. You must give me \$2,000."

"I bought lands from you in good faith," I replied, "and without any trickery or dishonesty on my part. If you have been dishonest and have done wrong, it is all your own doing and none of mine." He finally left me without getting any money, and I haven't seen him since. One of my men, however, who has been in Minneapolis on the street about two months ago, I imagine the fellow has about got to the end of his rope. He has a family at Oakland, Cal., but that Puter is not only smooth, but a man of great nerve, is demonstrated by the way he escaped from the government officer in the public street in Boston. And I understand the United States Marshal W. B. Burns of Washington, D. C., who was the officer in the case, is one of the cleverest men in the employ of the federal government.

PUTER ESCAPES MARSHAL

With a Gun He Stands Off and Then Wrenches Free.

Boston, March 27.—Stephen D. Puter of San Francisco, who is wanted by the United States government as a witness in the land fraud cases in Oregon, was arrested here last night by United States Marshal W. B. Burns of Washington, D. C., but after being in custody less than an hour, Puter drew a revolver and succeeded in escaping.

It is alleged that the Oregon state authorities want Puter, who was a broker, in connection with the forgeries of school certificates involving \$70,000.

Marshal Burns was detailed by the government at Washington to come to Boston in connection with the case. He found him and waited at the Fenway branch postoffice where, he learned, Puter was in the habit of calling for mail addressed to John L. Brown.

Puter agreed to accompany Burns to a private room in the postoffice. Burns understood that Superintendent Swift of the branch office had gone for the police, but it developed later that Swift did not understand that Burns wanted the assistance of the police. Supposing that two officers were outside the building, the marshal placed Puter under arrest and took him to the sidewalk.

Drew a Revolver. After asking a question or two about his removal to Washington, the prisoner suddenly drew a revolver, and leveling it at the marshal's head, exclaimed: "I'll kill you, Burns, if you dare to move."

The crowd about the two men was dense, but fell away rapidly at the appearance of the revolver. Puter, who is considerably older than his prisoner, jumped at him and pushed up his hand. Puter struggled and succeeded in pointing the muzzle of the revolver at Burns' breast for a second time. Again the officer closed with his man, but he could not wrench the weapon away. Puter finally got free from the grasp of the marshal, and gradually backed away, with the revolver still pointed at Burns. He suddenly turned and dashed down the street, followed by the officer and many other persons. The fugitive, however, escaped.

EX-SLAVE DIES AT AGE OF 163. East Liverpool, Ohio, March 27.—Daniel F. Sprigs, a well-known ex-slave, who purchased his freedom in 1831, for \$300, died near Wells-ville today at the age of 163 years. The old man earned the money with which he purchased his freedom by driving a rickshaw north. He leaves considerable property.

JEROME GETS WARRANTS IN INSURANCE CASES, CORTELYOU, BLISS, PERKINS SAID TO BE NAMED

SUES TO BREAK UP HILL MERGER

Illinois Man Assails the Joint Ownership of the Burlington-Ton Road.

Hill, Harriman and the Northern Securities Lines Are Defendants.

Journal Special Service. Chicago, March 27.—The reappearance of Clarence H. Verner as a complainant against railroad corporations, in litigation which assails and seeks the annulment of most important agreements, leases and contracts between railroads and in which he makes sensational charges, is watched with keen interest by railroad men and financial interests throughout the country.

Counsel for the railroad corporations involved in the new litigation announce that the action which Verner has brought as a holder of 27 shares of stock of the Burlington Railroad company of Illinois in the circuit court of La Salle county at Ottawa, Ill., and to which defendants excepted have just been filed, will be replete with sensational developments.

Against Merger Roads. The bill which Verner filed in court, with B. F. Lincoln of Ottawa as his solicitor, is directed against the Burlington Railroad company of Illinois, the Burlington and Great Northern of Iowa, the Northern Pacific road of Wisconsin, the Great Northern of Minnesota, the Union Pacific of Utah, George B. Harris of Cook county, Illinois, James C. Hill of St. Paul, Minn., and E. H. Harriman of New York city. It is the recollection among the railroad lawyers of the trouble and annoyance which Verner's action has caused in financial circles upon the new litigation at Ottawa. It is conceded that Mr. Verner worried the Rock Island people greatly by his action in court and that he is one of the best-posted litigators which the railroad lawyers have had to oppose.

Merger Still in Effect. According to the complaint contained in the bill which is the basis of his action against the Burlington, Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Union Pacific companies and Messrs. Hill, Harriman and Harris, the combination, which the decision of the United States supreme court in 1902 declared null and void, is still in effect, and in form out of existence, is still continued in effect by an agreement between the stockholders of a majority of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific. The agreement between these holders of the majority of the stock of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific interests purports to merge the business of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington railroad companies shall be conducted harmoniously and to suppress all competition between them.

Verner's Charges. In the bill of complaint, Verner declares that the various lines of the Burlington, Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Union Pacific interests purporting to merge the business of the Burlington railroad and the Great Lakes and the Missouri river with the Pacific ocean ports. Because of this paralleling and competition, it is declared, the Great Northern and Northern Pacific interests purchased in June, 1901, \$107,000,000 of the \$110,577,700 of the then total stock issue of the Burlington Railroad company, thereby acquiring control of the Burlington railroad. Since the purchase the stock of the Burlington has been increased to \$111,142,800.

The Merger "Plot." It is charged that after the purchase of June, 1901, the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific with the Union Pacific interests, which owned a large amount of stock in the Northern Pacific, "intending to restrain trade or monopolize same and to prevent competition between them, entered into a conspiracy to effect a virtual consolidation of these roads," and that was for the purpose of "controlling the Burlington railroad and the Northern Securities company, with an authorized stock of \$400,000,000, was formed. It is charged that these three railroad corporations, or persons controlling them, controlled the Northern Securities company.

So far as the Burlington Railway company of Iowa is concerned, Mr. Verner charges that it was organized with a capital stock of \$100,000,000 in October, 1901, only a trifling portion of the stock has been paid in and that it was so intended.

The Burlington Leases. The agreements and leases between the Burlington Railroad company and the Burlington Railway company, which the bill seeks to have the court declare null and void and to prevent them by means of an injunction to be any longer recognized and followed, are charged with having been made thru the control of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Union Pacific interests.

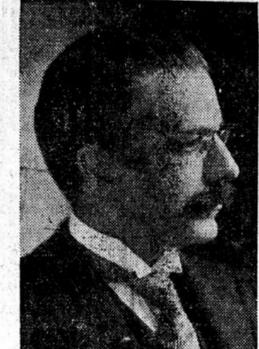
The millions of dollars in profits which Verner in his bill claims have been distributed to the beneficiaries of the Burlington Railway company over and above 7 per cent per annum paid on the stock of the Burlington Railroad company, he now asks the court to revert to the Burlington Railway company of the Burlington Railroad company of Illinois, so that he may get his share upon the 27 shares which he owns.

WHITE SLAVE BOSS GETS TWENTY YEARS

New York, March 27.—Robert H. Spriggs, the negro recently convicted of abduction in detaining white women against their will in a resort frequented only by negroes, today was sentenced to serve twenty years in state prison. Sallie Bennett, who aided Spriggs in conducting the resort and who pleaded guilty to abduction, was sentenced to ten years in state prison.



GEORGE W. PERKINS, Partner of Morgan and High Official in New York Life.



GEORGE R. CORTELYOU, Chairman of the Republican National Committee.



CORNELIUS M. BLISS, Treasurer of the Republican National Committee.

RUSSELL SAGE IS ABOUT TO RETIRE

Aged Financier's Physical Health Unequal to Anything More Than Hoarding.

Journal Special Service. New York, March 27.—At the meeting of the directors of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway company, General Thomas T. Eckert was elected a member of the executive committee instead of Russell Sage. Mr. Sage will, by courtesy, remain a member of the board of directors, although his decision to discontinue his connection with the executive committee marks his retirement from business.

Mr. Sage will be 90 years old this spring and, while his faculties remain remarkably clear, his physical health is not such as to permit him to enter into the details of the management of the railroad properties in which he is a large stockholder. He will retire from Western Union, Missouri Pacific and the other great properties with which he has been associated over a quarter of a century and younger men will take his place.

Mr. Sage has not been at his office for more than a month. He came down during the winter, when money rates were hovering around 125, and those who dickered with him for loans say that he exhibited his oldtime shrewdness. The excitement of these trips, however, weakened him, and his visits to the office since then have been rare.

A banker familiar with Mr. Sage's business methods said today: "I believe that estimates of Mr. Sage's wealth have usually been too large. Wall street has guessed that he is worth \$100,000,000. I do not believe his fortune is over half that."

COUNTY AUDITORS IN SESSION

Special to The Journal. Pierre, S. D., March 27.—At the county auditors' meeting, today most of the counties were represented. The general sentiment expressed was in favor of increasing real estate values and lowering interest to place it nearer to quality. At the afternoon session, a general plan will be outlined and following that action, a meeting of the state auditors' association will be held.

SAVE NIAGARA, IS PRESIDENT'S PLEA

Roosevelt Urges Congress to Take Action to Preserve Scenic Wonder.

Washington, March 27.—In submitting to the senate and the house of representatives the report of the members of the international waterways commission regarding the preservation of Niagara Falls, President Roosevelt today sent a recommendation that a law be enacted along the lines of the recommendations of the report. In his message the president says: "I earnestly recommend that congress enact into law the suggestions of the American members of the international waterways commission for the preservation of Niagara Falls without waiting for the negotiation of a treaty. The law can be put in such form that it will lapse, say in three years, provided that during that time no international agreement has been reached. But in any event I hope that this nation will make it evident that it is doing all in its power to preserve the great scenic wonder, the existence of which, unharmed, should be a matter of pride to every person on this continent."

REVIVAL WAVE IS TO SWEEP WICKED CITY

Chicago, March 27.—An evangelistic revival that will sweep Chicago with a wave of religious awakening was planned last night by the union evangelistic committee of Chicago in the First Methodist church. All Protestant denominations are to be asked to aid in the calling to Chicago of Evangelists Torrey and Alexander for a series of revival meetings in all parts of the city, lasting three months or more, if the money for the necessary expenses can be obtained. A tabernacle was suggested that would hold as many people as the Auditorium and be movable, so as to be transferred to the different sections of the city.

JAPAN MAY TAKE OVER PHILIPPINES

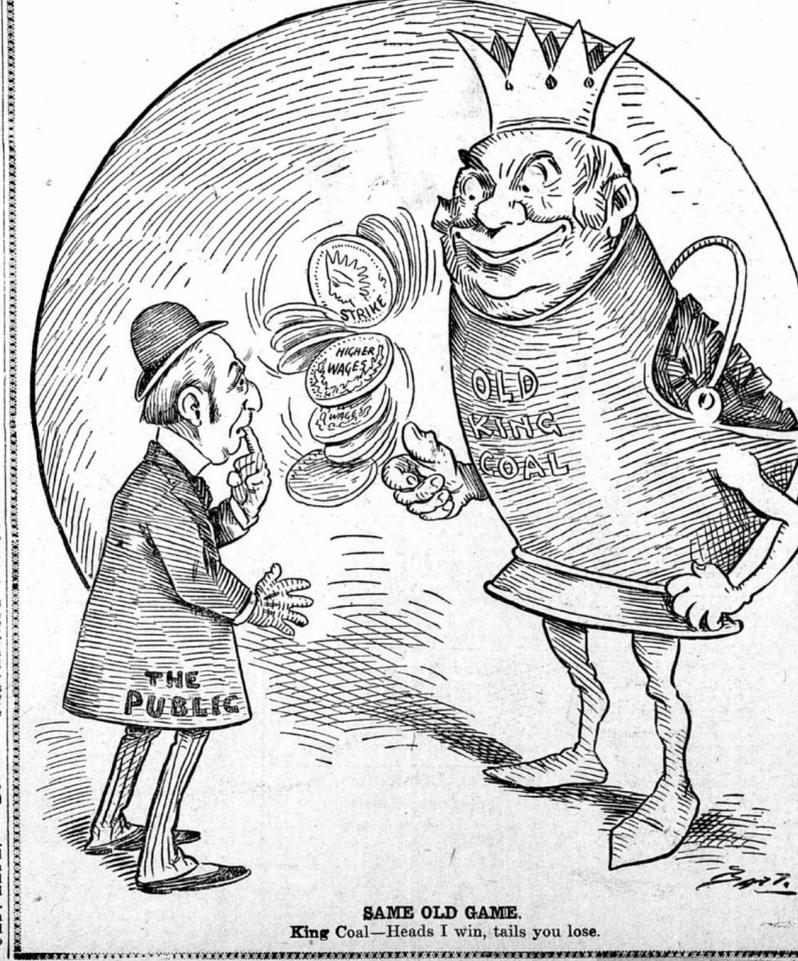
Wright's Mission to Tokio Is Said to Be with Transfer of Islands in View.

Washington, March 27.—Altho Secretary Taft saw fit recently to deny the report that Japan had made overtures to the United States for the acquisition of the Philippines, corroborative evidence is at hand that the Japanese government has been desirous of opening negotiations to that end, and when former Governor Wright of the Philippines goes to Japan as the first American ambassador to that country, he will be empowered by this government to enter upon further consideration of that proposition.

In fact, it is said on what ought to be unimpeachable authority, that the selection of Governor Wright to represent the Roosevelt administration at the Japanese emperor's court was clearly caused by this situation.

President Roosevelt, according to report, desires to dispose of the Philippines problem before the end of his present term in the White House. He is represented as being convinced that our ownership of the islands as "possession, not parts" of the United States is not acceptable to the American people and will eventually mean much larger expenditures upon our home government than have been made even thus far.

It is not understood, however, that the administration at present contemplates going to the extent of selling the Philippines for so much money. Americans recently returned from the orient say that there is no doubt on the other hand that Japan is extremely anxious to gain acquisition of the Philippines and has made representations to the United States that an amicable agreement could be formulated by the terms of which Japan would become the sponsor for the integrity of the Philippines, with perhaps a joint protectorate exercised by the United States, Great Britain and Japan. Just what form the negotiations would, or may assume, is conjecture, and these steps, it is understood, are to be left in the hands of Ambassador Wright.



SAME OLD GAME. King Coal—Heads I win, tails you lose.

SECRECY SHROUDS DELAYED ARRESTS

New York's District Attorney Believed to Be Testing Law's Power.

Campaign Fund Contributions by Insurance Companies Involved.

New York, March 27.—Warrants for the arrest of three claimants in life insurance officials were obtained by District Attorney Jerome today from Magistrate Moss of the Tombs court. It was said at the time the warrants were issued that the men named in them were in the criminal courts buildings, and that their attorneys at the same time were in the supreme court arranging to have the warrants corpus in connection with the proceedings.

It was reported in the criminal courts building that the warrants asked for were for the arrest of Postmaster General George B. Cortelyou, chairman of the republican national committee; Cornelius N. Bliss, treasurer of that committee, and George W. Perkins, formerly vice president of the New York Life Insurance company.

Test on Perkins. Up to 2:30 o'clock this afternoon no official statement as to the insurance warrants could be obtained. At that time it was reported that a decision had been reached to make a test of the case against George W. Perkins. The program was said to be that Perkins will appear in court tomorrow, when a warrant will be served on him and the legal point involved will be passed on by the court. According to this report if the case against Perkins holds, others connected with the insurance contributions to campaign funds will be prosecuted.

Jerome Close-Mouthed. After he had obtained the warrants, District Attorney Jerome declined to say for whom they had been issued. His action in asking for the warrants was said to be an outgrowth of the sharp discussion between Judge O'Sullivan of the court of general sessions and himself last week over the question whether officers of the insurance companies would be prosecuted for making contributions to political parties.

A few weeks ago Mr. Jerome presented to the grand jury evidence bearing upon such contributions, which was brought out in the legislative insurance investigation. Following this the grand jury presented to Judge O'Sullivan a long series of hypothetical questions as to whether, under certain circumstances, the insurance officials had committed larceny in making the political contributions.

Jerome's Opinion. Several days later Mr. Jerome informed the jury that the officers were not guilty of larceny unless intent to defraud were shown and expressed the opinion that it was not shown in these cases. Last week, however, Judge O'Sullivan notified the jury that it was for the jury to say whether or not intent to defraud were shown by the insurance men and if the jury found out that it was shown the crime of larceny would have been committed.

When Judge O'Sullivan so charged the jury, Mr. Jerome declared the judge had misconstrued the case, and that the ruling was correct, warrants should issue for Messrs. Cortelyou, Bliss and Perkins. Mr. Jerome offered to ask for the warrants if Judge O'Sullivan would grant them the office and said Judge O'Sullivan declined to go about the case in that way, and instructed the jury later to secure the evidence from the district attorney's office and investigate fearlessly the entire matter of political contributions by insurance officials.

Asked for the Evidence. The foreman of the grand jury yesterday made application at Mr. Jerome's office, but the assistant district attorney declined to give it to him. Mr. Jerome was not then at his office, but the assistant district attorney Kressel, accompanied by Vice President Darwin H. Kingsley of the New York Life, appeared before Magistrate Moss today and said Mr. Kingsley made a deposition. Several subpoenas in blank were then issued by the magistrate for a John Doe proceedings. None of the court officials concerned in the proceedings would say what the proceedings were.

Afterward Mr. Kingsley and Edmund D. Randolph, treasurer of the New York Life, went to Mr. Jerome's office to make an affidavit, it was reported as the payment of political contributions by the officers of that company.

After the conference at Mr. Jerome's office, news was received that Randolph, nor Mr. Jerome would disclose what had transpired. It was reported that the warrants against the insurance officials would not be served until tomorrow.

ANOTHER HAMILTON BOMB

Former Lobbyist Promises New Insurance Sensations.

Journal Special Service. New York, March 27.—Andrew Hamilton, who is back in this city, announcing that the object of his visit is to put the final touches on his plan of campaign against those men who have been conducting the insurance warfare against him, particularly insofar as his connection with the New York Life is concerned.

"Yes, I have come here regarding insurance matters," said Mr. Hamilton to a reporter. "This is the subject that takes my entire attention these days, and unless I am mistaken, I think it will be found I have not wasted my time when I fire my next shot. It is not my intention to go into further details at this moment, but at another time and soon, I shall have something to say of rather an important nature."

The Truth, He Says. "I want to make this plain. All I have said thus far is the truth. For every statement I have made I will adduce documentary evidence. And for everything I shall say in continuation.

COAL MEN BREAK; STRIKE AT HAND

Soft Coal Scale Committee, Unable to Agree, Ends Sessions.

OPERATORS REJECT MINERS' ULTIMATUM

Peace Now Hangs on Possible Independent Action by Districts.

Indianapolis, March 27.—The joint scale committee of the bituminous coal operators and miners of the central competitive district, after being in session one week, decided today to report a disagreement, to a session of a joint conference of miners and operators to be held at 2 o'clock.

The committee was in session but a short time today. It met at 9:30 o'clock, and after a half hour spent in general talk that bore no relation to the question at issue, a motion was made and unanimously adopted that a disagreement be reported.

The district officers of the miners in the committee yesterday had strongly reiterated their former declaration that under no circumstances would they sign a scale less than that in general advance in wages of 5.55 per cent, and President Perry of the Illinois miners had assured the operators that no Illinois union or district would be allowed to sign unless the advance was given to every union mine in the state.

The ultimatum was received by the miners in silence and an adjournment was taken until this morning, when the motion to report a disagreement was at once offered by President Mitchell of the miners and carried unanimously.

Serious Matter Now. When the thirty-four operators said miners came from the committee room there was no laughing and jesting as had been seen at the close of previous sessions. All were serious and there were indications that each man was laboring under great strain.

President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers declined to make a statement. Asked if he would permit the scale to be signed, when an advance was offered, even if all the mines should not work, he refused to reply. Mr. Mitchell said it would be determined by the action of the conference following the adjournment, under consideration of the anthracite situation. A meeting of the miners' national convention will be held immediately following the adjournment of the joint conference. Should this convention be held tomorrow, Mr. Mitchell could not reach the east for a conference before Friday or Saturday.

Outcome Is in Doubt. At noon J. H. Winder, chairman of the operators and representing those of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, who are opposed to paying any increase in wages, said he could make no statement. "It is impossible to predict the outcome, but the situation has not changed," he said.

E. I. Robbins, representing the operators of western Pennsylvania, and demanded that the scale be signed prior to the joint conference. President Mitchell adhered to his policy maintained throughout the conference, in refusing to give any information whatever.

Some Miners Will Be Worked. Frank McKenna, one of the western Pennsylvania district miners' board members, said: "The men will go to work in the Pittsburgh district. As soon as Robbins or anyone else meets our demands we will work. The state constabulary cannot keep the men from going to work."

Mr. Robbins said this afternoon: "I shall go before the miners and again offer the 1906 scale. I shall demand that they operate my mines. I have met their demands; they will not dare to decline, because some of the miners out in Indiana, Illinois and the west say 'no.'"

"The mines of the Pittsburgh Coxy company and its allied companies in western Pennsylvania and Illinois will be put in operation. This morning we will work, even if those in these other states try to lock them out."

Open Shop Plan. George A. Magoon, leader of the western Pennsylvania independents, was seen again today. "Robbins says he is going to operate his mines. What will the independents do?" "We will work, even if those in these other states try to lock them out."

No Violence Likely. President Dennis Sullivan of the Ohio miners said: "We shall have little trouble in our state. It will not be necessary for the operators to post guards. We have been friends for a long time and tho we differ on this proposition, we will still seek to deserve the good will of our opponents."

"We are very much in earnest, but our men will be a unit against vandalism and violence. That spirit also will be found in Indiana, Illinois and the other states."

He was asked if the miners' union would control lawless elements that take a hand in mining strikes. "I think we can; we will try," he said.

CASTELLANE DIVORCE DELAYED BY POLITICS

Paris, March 27.—The adjourned hearing of the Castellane divorce proceedings, set for March 31, has been postponed until April 28, owing to the absence of the Countess Anna at Biarritz and to the fact that Count Boni is engaged in an electoral campaign. The delay is really due more to the desire of the parties to decide upon the business and domestic phases of the case before the court proceeds with the final hearing.