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THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1900.
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DECEMBER CIRCULATION.

W. B. Carr, Business Manager of The St. Louis Republic, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the daily and Sunday Republic printed during the month of December, 1899, all in regular editions, was as per schedule below:

Date.	Copies.	Date.	Copies.
1	75,210	17 Sunday	81,300
2	76,630	18	74,220
3 Sunday	81,060	19	75,200
4	74,990	20	74,240
5	74,930	21	74,720
6	74,460	22	74,750
7	76,380	23	76,695
8	75,400	24 Sunday	80,950
9	76,075	25	79,510
10 Sunday	80,650	26	74,660
11	75,000	27	74,180
12	74,950	28	74,740
13	76,000	29	73,900
14	77,070	30	76,575
15	76,640	31 Sunday	82,720
16	75,990		

Total for the month..... 2,369,465
Less all copies spoiled in printing, left over or filed..... 61,503

Net number distributed... 2,307,962
Average daily distribution... 74,450

And said W. B. Carr further says that the number of copies returned or reported unsold during the month of December was 8.88 per cent.

W. B. CARR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3d day of January, 1900.

J. F. FARISH,
Notary Public, City of St. Louis, Mo. My term expires April 26, 1904.

MR. DAVIS'S OPPORTUNITY.

There is a promise of unexpected benefit to the cause of freedom in the news from Washington that the administration is alarmed by the possible menace of the visit to the two South African Republics now being made by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Webster Davis of Missouri.

This should mean that Mr. Davis is not burdened with instructions from an Imperial and Anglomaniac President, and, possibly, that he has not surrendered to that strange influence which has led an American administration to assume a hostile attitude toward the two little Republics now fighting for their liberties and national existence. It may even be that Mr. Davis is still so true to that old-fashioned Americanism which prevails in the Middle West that he will espouse the cause of the Boers and come back home to preach anew those doctrines of justice and freedom which are now repudiated by the McKinley imperialists.

The American people will hope that Webster Davis of Missouri will do this thing. The people of his own State will especially pray that he shall have clear eyes to see the truth in South Africa, and a brave tongue to proclaim the truth in America. This young Missourian has a superb opportunity for service in the cause of freedom. If he is still a true Missourian that service will be rendered, no matter what administration influence may be brought to bear to keep him silent for the sake of the unamerican Americans now trying to change the destiny and degrade the mission of their own free country.

MR. SHELDON'S PROJECT.

A little reflection will show that the newspaper which the Reverend Mr. Sheldon will produce, when he takes charge of the Topeka Capital in order to edit it for a week "as Christ would have edited it," will not be greatly different from the issues which are produced every day by the papers which rank in the first class in the United States at present, among which The Republic feels that it can classify itself without a breach of decorum. This, of course, is on the supposition that the Reverend Mr. Sheldon has a proper conception of the personality of Christ, and the ability to edit a newspaper in harmony with that conception.

Every newspaper is responsible to its clientele. If its issues are tainted with improprieties its clientele drops off and seeks another paper which more nearly meets its wants.

A composite of the large constituency of a newspaper of the first class would approach very closely the mentally, morally and physically perfect or normal man. This perfect or normal man the newspaper must please or sacrifice his approval and patronage. The editors of such a newspaper ask with every article they handle what this normal man would think of it.

He who assumes that this normal man does or thinks wrong and unchristian things is in the position of the man in the insane asylum who, in answer to the question, "Why do they lock you up here?" answered, "Oh, I thought everybody outside was crazy and they thought I was crazy, and there were more of them than there were of me."

Charges of sensationalism or untruthfulness are made against papers of the first class only by persons who have not studied the profession or have seen only enough of it to form a mistaken impression, like the blind man who felt an elephant's trunk and said, "This animal is very like a rope."

"Even Homer nods" and the best editors make mistakes. The captious and hypercritical seize on these lapses as if they were carefully planned performances. The saying of Burns in his "Address to the Unco' Guid" is peculiarly applicable to newspapers:

> Where done we partly may compute,
> For none can tell what's resented.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

The revenue perplexities which perpetually trouble all great municipalities have taken an unusually embarrassing form in St. Louis. No reader of The Republic of yesterday who feels any real interest in the welfare of this community could fail to note the peculiar gravity of the existing situation.

It is not a situation that should be met by an effort to stir up political prejudices and work partisan advantage out of problems that will be hard enough to solve if politics and partisanship are entirely ignored. Yet Democratic and Republican officials alike are manifesting frantic desire to make a distinct political issue out of the municipal difficulties.

All good citizens will join The Republic in an emphatic demand that this partisan bickering be brought to a quick end. It is not of as much importance just now to determine the relative responsibility of the Republican and Democratic parties for the city's revenue embarrassments as it is to discover the best method of apportioning the available funds to meet the city's fixed requirements. Neither party is without blame. And in some degree both parties are guiltless, since the hampering restrictions of the State Constitution and the City Charter, which have greatly contributed to the embarrassment, were not born of party spirit and were applauded by Republicans and Democrats alike when submitted for the approval of the people.

Facing the issue frankly, when the new police law was pending before the Legislature, The Republic earnestly and forcibly opposed its passage. It was inexpedient, unwise, unwarranted, and The Republic told the Legislature that it should be rejected. And The Republic says now that the law should be repealed at the next meeting of the State's General Assembly. In similar spirit honest Republicans, who have the true interest of the people of St. Louis at heart, denounce the ordinances under which the Street and some other departments of the municipal government annually draw hundreds of thousands of dollars from the city treasury to pay unearned salaries to political henchmen. Let us concede that the political responsibility is divided, and put aside, for the moment at least, any effort to determine which party is more to blame.

The situation appeals to every citizen upon whom the obligation of government rests, whether his functions are executive or legislative, to forget his political affiliations and regard solely the needs of the public service. The officials who fail to banish all thought of politics in this emergency will not be long in learning that the people can forget party nominations and overlook political appeals when higher aims demand their suffrages.

The recent outburst of popular sentiment, which drove the defiant majority in the House of Delegates to the tardy and reluctant performance of a neglected duty, was not the manifestation of a passing caprice. It was the sign of patience exhausted; it bespoke a deep and righteous indignation, which continues to animate the great body of the people. With new provocation they will promptly give new and more vigorous evidence of their power. It is greater than any official combine ever organized was strong enough to resist.

BITTER PARTISANSHIP.

In its recommendation that The Republic and the Jefferson Club join forces to help along the wineroom reform, the Globe-Democrat again shows that partisan spirit which leads it to a steady course of misrepresentation of facts and deliberate effort to conceal the truth from the people.

For months, long before there was any special movement of organizations or individuals to suppress the wineroom evil, The Republic urged the necessity for such a movement. During this time the Globe-Democrat was as silent as the grave on this topic, apparently indifferent to the imperative need for such an effort in behalf of public morals. It did not seem to know or care that these cesspools of iniquity were a continual reproach to the city and a never-ceasing incitement to crime.

Under the lead of The Republic, popular sentiment against the winerooms was aroused to that point where systematic effort for their suppression was begun. Not until the movement took such shape that it was possible for a distorted presentation of facts to furnish a basis for partisan cavil did the Globe-Democrat see fit to comment upon the crusade against the wineroom evil. And since that time this machine organ has directed its efforts, not to an honest and earnest support of the movement, but to a misleading criticism of the elements engaged in it, the Globe-Democrat's aim plainly being to gain a reflex benefit for the City Hall gang from whatever opportunity might be possible of creation in a carping treatment of attempts at wineroom suppression.

The Republic is willing to abide by its record in the matter of the movement against the winerooms. It presents that record to the Globe-Democrat, indeed as an example which the latter would do well to follow if it is willing to make any effort for the good of the community. And more strenuously than ever does The Republic urge the Globe-Democrat to abandon its bitter partisanship and thus work for the general good.

HONORS AT HOME.

It will be a sure guarantee of good government in St. Louis, as it has already been for more fortunate cities in this country and in Europe, when the best men of the community regard the holding of municipal office as a crowning honor in a life of usefulness and deserved distinction.

The Mayoralty of St. Louis should be the prize most eagerly sought by all successful St. Louisans who have grown to prominence and wealth through their utilization of home advantages. It should be a matter of pride and of grateful duty thus to serve to the best of their trained ability the people of their home city. Civic honors, testifying to the esteem in which their recipients are held by the community, should be prized as they deserve, not contemptuously left to a partisan rabble actuated solely by motives of plunder and partisan profit.

Successful business and professional men in all cities are glad and proud to serve on the directing boards of banks, insurance companies and similar concerns, or on charity commissions or in the wise direction of the financial affairs of churches. It is their duty, and their selection for such duty is a proof of their standing among their fellows. Exactly this idea should prevail as to the control and conduct of municipal affairs. A seat in the City Council or House of Delegates should confer honorable distinction upon any leading St. Louisan chosen on his merits to fill so responsible a place.

When this view of municipal service obtains and it is plainly the right and dignified view, the rule of the machine, of the Ross and his gang, of the boodler and the professional politician, will be gone forever. The municipality will be looked on as a great co-operative business which must be conducted on business principles for the general good. Why will not St. Louis's representative men thus perceive and accept their duty? The decent voters of the city—always vastly in the majority—are eager to honor such men, regardless of party.

FIGURES DON'T LIE.

Mayor Ziegenhein, in his speech at the annual meeting of the Business Men's League at the Mercantile Club last Wednesday evening, employed the occasion to commend his administration of municipal affairs. His most pronounced indorsement of himself was advanced in the claim that in the Street Department alone he had saved to St. Louis the sum of $300,000 last year.

Then the Mayor explained—and this was decidedly confusing—that he meant by this assertion that the expense to taxpayers was that much less than when his predecessor, Mayor Walbridge, was in control at the City Hall, some three years ago. Even with this qualification, the Mayor does not seem to be supported by the facts and figures necessary to satisfactorily carry such a statement.

On Monday, December 25 last, The Republic printed on its front page an official and authoritative table showing the great increase that had been caused in Street Department expenses by the operation of the iniquitous Wittenberg ordinance of 1897. This statement showed, in detailed figures, an increase in salaries in the Street Department from a total of $126,063.26 for the fiscal year of 1896-97 to $226,846.47 for the fiscal year of 1898-99. The general expenses of the Street Department for the same time showed an increase from $352,781.03 to $420,510.60. Only in the item of wages was there a decrease shown, and this decrease was but a trifle over $10,000, thus making the total increase of cost in the Street Department over $150,000 in that period.

It is difficult to understand how the Mayor can reconcile his claim of a saving of $300,000 with these figures of the increase caused by the operation of the Wittenberg bill. The members of the Business Men's League will probably not miss the significance of the contrast. Even at a banquet the Mayor should not place himself on record in an assertion of self-glorification which is not borne out by the facts.

THE DECENNIAL CENSUS.

The Programme Committee of the Business Men's League, in reporting subjects to be considered at subsequent meetings of the League, advocated to one subject in particular which should begin to occupy public attention—the decennial census.

The subject is one on which the Business Men's League can expend labor and thought to good advantage. This census, made with elaborate care and at much expense by the United States Government, properly carries more weight in a statistical way than any enumeration which a community can make for itself. It may be said that the population, the activities and the material possessions which this census credits to a community hold throughout the term of ten years intervening before the next census, subsequent estimates by the communities themselves to the contrary notwithstanding.

For this reason it is fitting that St. Louis make an especial effort to present all her population and resources. Those in charge of the enumeration in St. Louis will try to give St. Louis all credit, but a special effort to perfect the machinery to be used in the census will make it possible for St. Louis to put her best foot foremost. The Business Men's League can do this to good advantage.

St. Louis's prosperity was amply demonstrated by the facts and figures submitted at the Business Men's League annual meeting. And now for the World's Fair of 1903 to increase that prosperity a hundredfold!

It will be pitiful as well as amusing if British red tape proves strong enough to tangle up the volunteer yeomanry movement to the extent of keeping the yeomen from reaching the front in South Africa.

It does not follow because the British soldiers in Ladysmith were put on full rations that General White is expecting relief. Expectation of capture would be an equally serviceable explanation.

Missourians will hope that Webster Davis will justify the apprehension of the McKinley administration by telling the truth of the South African situation as he finds it.

Yesterday's long list of American soldiers killed and wounded in action does not bear out General Otis's claim that the Filipino insurrection is "virtually suppressed."

Chicago probably refused to waive notice of St. Louis's suit because she wanted to make sure of using her open sewer for a couple of months anyway.

Blanche Walsh shouldn't brag about the money she won at roulette in Hot Springs. Lucky at gambling means unlucky in love, you know.

Web Davis of Missouri.

Web Davis of Missouri,
You've left your native shores
To visit Oom Paul Kruger and
His band of patriot Boers.
And if to Western sport
Your pulses still beat true—
Web Davis of Missouri,
They should find a friend in you!

Web Davis of Missouri,
To love sweet Freedom's name
You early learned, as all our blood
Out here doth learn the same;
Ask men who fight for freedom
As your fathers had to do—
Web Davis of Missouri,
They should find a friend in you!

RIPLEY D. SAUNDERS.

DEMOCRATIC VIEW OF PENDING ISSUES.

Caucus of the Senate Minority to Outline a Course of Action.

FREE COINAGE OF SILVER.

That Will Be Offered as a Substitute for the Financial Bill—Bacon's Philippines Resolution—The Colonies.

Washington, Jan. 24. The Democratic members of the Senate held a conference today to consider the question of party policy on the various questions before Congress. They have found themselves following somewhat divergent paths on some of these questions, and concluded that their party interests demanded that they should have a better understanding among themselves. Hence to-day's conference. No definite conclusion was reached but when the conference adjourned there was a general understanding of the lines to be pursued.

The question of the policy to be pursued toward the Philippines. Architecture attracted more attention than any other, on this point there was a general exchange of views, the concensus of opinion evidently favoring the policy outlined by Senator Bacon's resolution, of protecting life and property in the islands until quiet is restored, when the United States shall provide for opportunity and incentive the method by the formation of a government by and of the people of the Philippine Islands, to be independently exercised and controlled by themselves.

There was also more or less discussion of the bills providing a form of government for the Hawaiian Islands and for Porto Rico. The predominance of opinion concerning these bills was favorable to allowing free trade between the United States and these islands as a part of this country.

With reference to the financial bill, it was generally decided to offer a substitute providing for the coinage of silver. Senators Lindsay and Cullom were present and with them discussed their intention not to be bound in any decision upon this line, they reserving the liberty of any effort to prevent its being pursued.

The conference adjourned with the understanding that another meeting will be held soon.

MARYLAND TRUST CIRCULAR.

Distribution on United Railways Beneficiary Stock.

A. H. Bauer yesterday received notice that the Maryland Trust Company had issued a circular in regard to its certificates, which will be made public to-day. The circular is addressed to "subscribers of certificates of beneficial interest in the United Railways Company of St. Louis," and is similar to the one issued Saturday by Brown Brothers. It reads as follows:

"Out of advance sales of bonds we have made a distribution equivalent to 10 per cent to the first subscribers who made payment on account, and who, in response to our circular of before August 31, in order that their payments may be added thereon and in order that the date of the certificate may be entered on the same, have received distribution to the subscribers of Brown Brothers' certificates who have a notification to at the Commercial National Bank, in St. Louis, where certificates will be changed on presentation on or after January 25, 1900.

"On all advance sales of bonds a sufficient amount of money has been provided to pay the 10 per cent assessment on the common stock of the United Railways Company of St. Louis called for under the terms of purchase of July 26, 1899.

"This is equivalent to a dividend of $26 a share, or only 8 per cent of the par value of the certificates has been paid. It indicates that the underwriters of the syndicate, or Brown Brothers, will avail themselves of the option to take the common stock of the United Railways Company of St. Louis at $25 a share, less a commission of 1 per cent on its par value, which would make $23 net.

"The distribution of the proceeds of the advance sales of bonds will also be made to holders of Brown Brothers certificates, and the final installment, then on the subscriptions, and the call on the assessment on the common stock of the United Railways Company will be credited on certificates on their presentation at the St. Louis Trust Company to-day.

"It is said that Brown Brothers have agreed to take as many of the bonds of the United Railways Company as are sold in St. Louis. As 20 per cent have been sold in this city, if Brown Brothers comply with their agreement, this would make 20 per cent of the bonds already provided for. This if the preferred stock should be disposed of at anything like the figures expected, Brown Brothers' certificates would not produce about 90 per cent of an investment of $5, and the Maryland Trust Company's certificates are worth within a few points as much."

BOTH FACTIONS ALERT.

Republican Township Conventions Convene To-Day.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Olney, Ill., Jan. 24. The Republican township conventions for this county will be held tomorrow. Many of the Tanner adherents from this end of the State are in the city, notably John H. Edmiston, Secretary of the Board, East St. Louis; R. N. McCauley, President of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, Normal; Frank Johnson, clerk of Chester Penitentiary; Bentley Nowell, Chicago; Judge R. P. Morris, Colonel Tom Scott, Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner, and Captain Black, clerk in the Auditor's office, Springfield.

A fight was precipitated by the Republican County Central Committee's action last Saturday, calling the County Convention for next Friday, giving but five days' notice. The movement is anti-Tanner and is led by T. A. Fritcher, Postmaster; Colonel Arch Spring, Deputy United States Marshal; J. F. Wheel, chairman, and William Rhode, secretary of the Republican Committee; Harry Ferriman, City Clerk, and other Bob Indies.

The contestant Colby is the first one in the State, and it is reported that Hanna, Yates and Roberts candidates for Governor, will be here each hoping to start his gubernatorial boom.

It is reported by all that Olney is in the midst of the storm center of Illinois and the political pulse is strong and feverish.

The original plan was to send delegates to the State Convention uninstructed, but that will depend on whether the colonels can muster enough nerve to break the slate.

FLOODED WITH INQUIRIES.

Conference Called to Plan Sheldon Edition of the Topeka Capital.

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 24. An arrangement was made today for a conference between the Reverend C. M. Sheldon, Doctor W. J. Gaudauser of Chicago, and Doctor N. D. Mills of Brooklyn, to discuss plans for the "Sheldon Edition" of the Topeka Capital.

Mr. Sheldon and the Daily Capital have been deluged with telegrams and letters from all parts of the country, asking for information regarding the proposed plans for a Christian daily newspaper. Among the dispatches received there was one from New York containing an order for 1000 copies of each issue during the week. Another order by telegraph asked for 5000 lines of advertising space.

The first subscription order, which came within twelve hours of the announcement of the plan in the Associated Press, was from Nebraska for 50 copies of each issue.

Requests have come to the Capital from over 100 newspapers in Kansas for copies of Mr. Sheldon, to be used in their columns. Mr. Sheldon said to-day that while he would receive no compensation for his services it had been stipulated in the original understanding with the Capital Publishing Company that should the receipts exceed the expenditures of the edition a large part of the proceeds would be devoted to missionary and philanthropic work.

Found Dead in Bed.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Murphysboro, Ill., Jan. 24. Simon Smith, aged 60 years, living southwest of this city, in Sand Ridge Township, was found dead in bed at an early hour this morning.

MISS ADELINE MEEK,
Whose engagement to Mr. Walter Gates is announced.

ST. LOUISANS ARE ACTIVELY AT WORK.

National Board of Trade Urges Congress to Vote the Five Million Dollars.

WORLD'S FAIR TAKES A BOOM.

Governor Stanard's Address to the President at the White House—A Department of Commerce.

The Republic Bureau,
No. 37 The Belmont Apartments,
Washington, Jan. 24.

Washington, Jan. 24. The St. Louis delegates to the National Board of Trade had a very busy day and a successful and satisfactory one for the interests of that city.

The day was begun with a call of the majority of the delegates in a body upon President McKinley, when Governor Stanard, as chairman of the board, made a graceful speech to the President. He said that the great and diversified business interests of the country were represented in the delegates present, and speaking for them he congratulated the President upon the satisfactory condition of commercial affairs, due largely, in his opinion, to the wise and conservative course of the administration.

The President made a brief but pleasing reply to Governor Stanard's address.

After leaving the White House the delegates were postponed for a short time, after which they resumed their session at the Shoreham Hotel.

This evening they attended by special invitation, the President's reception at the White House. Among those present were Governor Stanard, Judge and Mrs. Gray, President Schlueter of the Merchants' Exchange and Mr. Schlueter, the Misses Johnson and H. P. Hamilton.

The St. Louis delegates expect to finish their work by to-morrow, and in the evening a part of them will begin their trip to New York and those home. Governor Stanard probably will remain until Friday.

One of the important actions of the board today was the passage of resolutions urging congress to appropriate the money for the St. Louis World's Fair. This action gives great satisfaction to the St. Louis men, it coming, being a request from the commercial bodies throughout the country in joint session. It gives practical assurance that the measure, when it comes before Congress, will be supported by the best business influences of the country.

The board also passed a resolution opposing the population of warships, and asking legislation to prevent this. There was disposition on the part of Chicago delegates to oppose this, but after reflection they concluded that this opposition would be merely under-current discussion, and they withdrew it.

Before going home to-morrow the St. Louis delegates will call on Secretary Long and urge the claims of the cruiser to be named The St. Louis.

The board also indorsed the Cullom bill, which provides the position of a Deep waterway Commission. This measure was one in which the St. Louis delegates were much interested, the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange having issued a circular. The Cullom bill authorizes a commission to report on the Mississippi River, and especially the deepening of the Southwest Pass in accordance with the recent estimate of the War Department.

Department of Commerce.

A consolidation regarding the proposed Department of Commerce was held this afternoon in the room of the Senate Committee on Commerce. Senator Frye of Maine, who introduced one of the bills for establishing such a department, was present to preside, but the discussion was left entirely to Senator Harris of Ohio, Senator Elkins of West Virginia and Senator Nelson of Minnesota.

Governor Stanard of St. Louis and other members of the National Board of Trade were present. Senator Nelson explained to the members of the Board of Trade the provisions of the substitute bill which he has prepared. It takes our bill as the central purpose from the bill introduced by Senator Frye, but makes some different arrangements of the matter of transfer and divisions which it is proposed to bring together under the new department. The title of the department is changed to "The Department of Commerce and Industries," and Senator Nelson explained that one of his objects in the bill was to give Federal supervision of manufacturing and mining interests, at least to gathering statistics and other information. He pointed out that the Interior and Treasury Departments had each more components than all the others combined, and that the others were mainly charged with a single distinct class of public business, namely, agriculture. There was a consolidation of kindred subjects, brought together under the Interior and Treasury Departments, while there was no provision for the supervision of mining or manufacturing under either.

The Bureau of Labor and the Department of Foreign Commerce of the Department of State are brought under the new department by the bill of Senator Nelson. He said in response to some questions that he proposed to draw an amendment, making the consular officers responsible to the head of the Department of Commerce and commercial matters.

Senator Nelson also called attention to the fact that his bill was so drawn as to consolidate a number of existing offices and bureaus, without increase of expenses, while the more important offices, such as head of the Department of Labor, were continued as separate bureaus, with the same salary as at present, and without change in the officers in charge. The explanations of Senator Nelson were heard with much attention by the members of the Board of Trade, and generally had their approval. Some new suggestions were made, which Senator Nelson promised to take under consideration.

The National Board of Trade today also adopted resolutions in favor of the Hanna-Payne ship subsidies bill.

BIG SUBSCRIPTION FOR WORLD'S FAIR.

Wabash Railroad Company Signs for $65,000, the Burlington for $55,000.

OTHER ROADS WILL DO WELL.

National Board of Trade Indorses the Celebration and Petitions Congress to Make the Appropriation.

The World's Fair Transportation Committee continued its active work yesterday. Those engaged were: Julius S. Walsh, Pierre Chouteau, D. R. Francis, William H. Thompson, C. H. Spencer, C. H. Huttig and J. B. Case. Signatures were obtained for $50,000 from the Wabash, and $55,000 from the Burlington. The former was signed by J. Ramsey, Jr., and the latter by Howard Elliott. Both subscriptions were promised some time ago, but the definite signatures for the amount transfer $120,000 from the pledge column to the subscription total.

The committee expects to receive a signed blank from the Missouri Pacific system for $50,000 before the end of the week, and it will then be in a position to wait on the auxiliary transportation interests and secure from them signatures necessary to bring up the total transportation subscription to Revolve, as originally estimated. So far there have been no refusals, and no apprehension is felt as to the action of the companies yet to be seen, gratifying assurances having been received in almost every instance.

The Transportation Committee will continue its work today and to-morrow, and will be able to report back to the Finance Committee on Friday that it has carried out literally the instructions given it at last week's meeting, which were to secure the signature for every amount pledged. M. D. Lide, Pierre Chouteau and H. A. Drummond are endeavoring to pursue the same policy in regard to the theaters, and to secure signed blanks for the $1,000 promised from this interest.

Former Governor Francis yesterday afternoon received the following telegram from Oscar C. Wilkinson, chairman of the Michigan Exchange delegation to the National Board of Trade:

"National Board of Trade passed unanimously the following resolution: Resolved, That the World's Exposition to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1903, to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, be commended by the National Board of Trade, and that Congress is petitioned to make ample and adequate appropriation to assist an exposition in celebration of so great a national and historic event."

APPEALS TO CIVIC PRIDE.

C. F. G. Meyer's Speech Before Business Men's League.

C. F. G. Meyer, president of the Meyer Bros. Drug Company, delivered the following speech of the annual banquet of the Business Men's League Tuesday evening, which is full of pertinent suggestions:

It is one of the most gratifying events of the times that business men, professional men, all other occupations, are now thinking and talking seriously about municipal affairs, and that with the view of expediting good results in the future, as large. The Republic's Annual Review of Business shows the best prospects and bright outlook of these events and conditions certainly presents itself, whether a permanent result can not be traced to the minds of the people, the wage earners, those who are the backbone of this country, we could hail and cheer this one sentiment expressed. We shall not do so now, but they are probable that most of us come forward.

What for years we have been a great and good city, yet St. Louis does can be no doubt, but it can only be to our benefit to be not properly focused and the attention of St. Louis, of its advantages, time to each men as constituting the Business Men's League of St. Louis, [illegible] carefully and [illegible] the call men in your [illegible] to take hold of the work, and see that it is done right.

There are many matters that demand your attention, and [illegible]. The city of St. Louis has grown very rapidly of late years, and in growing a large area certain methods are adopted and are [illegible] into [illegible] the city government does not seem equal to the emergency. I do not wish to indict any one city official, nor do any one policeman, but we have been passing into slow [illegible] and it has been committed—but we certainly require a Napoleon to renovate our city affairs.

It seems to be an undeniable fact that no matter what prosperity and affluence may bring about, there is a certain percentage of mankind that is given to speculation and degenerate so that [illegible] have to battle with it. Certain portions of our city have been abandoned for the breeding of vice and immorality. We do not see what is going on in the slums and depopulated parts of our city, because when we leave our [illegible] we take the first street car to our home, and the result is that we do not know what is going on in those parts of the town where we have not our place of business or our home.

When an official is installed in his office he is and is asks himself, "What am I to do?" He may not realize that he will give efficiency to his position unless he is brought about by influences from our citizens, and I believe that the Business Men's League of St. Louis should select a committee that will take hold of this subject in earnest, if it has not already done so.

Just imagine that we invite the whole world to come to St. Louis and be our guests, and then let them be taken around our city and see what a considerable portion of it looks like. I should be loth to have people come from Europe and other countries and find St. Louis in the present condition. Some I intend to my gentlemen, not to rest until we have our city in proper trim, the same as we try to fix our houses when we are looking for a distinguished guest.

MISS MEEK'S ENGAGEMENT—SOCIAL EVENTS AND NOTES.

The engagement of Miss Adeline Meek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Meek, to Mr. Walter Gates is formally announced to friends. Miss Meek, with her parents, has been staying at Hotel Berlin this winter, since her return from the South. Mr. Gates is at present in Texas. The wedding will take place early in the spring.

The wedding of Miss Mayme Mason Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Scott, of 1001 West Westminster place, to Mr. Clarence Brendler will take place Wednesday evening, January 31, at the Scott residence.

Mrs. Ella S. Peattie of Chicago is the guest of Mrs. Charles Harris. Having remained in St. Louis for the Wednesday Club meeting yesterday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Norrson McMillan have taken a thirty-room cottage in the environs of Paris for the spring and expect to entertain large numbers of their South American friends during the Exposition. Mrs. McMillan is at present in St. Louis, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. William McMillan. She expects to join Mr. McMillan in London very shortly.

Doctor and Mrs. S. H. Parsons will depart the first of next week for Mexico, where they will be guests of United States Ambassador Powell Clayton and Mrs. Clayton, who are old friends of Doctor and Mrs. Parsons. Later, the Parsonses will make a tour of the Florida resorts.

The bridal party at the wedding of Miss Maud Smith and Mr. J. D. Perry Francis, which is to take place on January 31, will be one of the largest of the winter. There are eight bridesmaids. Miss Louise Filley will serve as maid of honor. Miss Mabel Filley, Miss Burton, Miss Scanlan, Miss Sallie Walsh, Miss Grace Platt, Miss Sidney Boyd and Miss Lucille Nave of St. Joseph are the other maids. Mr. Francis will have Mr. Knox Maddox of San Francisco as his best man. The ushers and groomsmen are Messrs. William F. Pope, Julius Fox, Allen C. West, David R. Francis, Jr., Blakeslee Collins, Doctor Elsworth Smith and M. T. Clark of Chicago.

On Friday night of this week Mr. and Mrs. James Drummond will give a dinner to the members of the bridal party. Miss Scanlan will entertain them informally on Sunday evening. Former Governor and Mrs. David R. Francis have sent out cards for a large dinner in honor of the prospective bride and bridegroom on Monday evening, January 29.

Mrs. F. L. Swart and daughter, Miss Harriet Swart, of Montgomery City, Mo., are guests of Mrs. H. M. Temm.

Mrs. John B. Marguitry and daughters, Misses Lucia and Nellie Marguitry, of the South Side, gave a box party at the Olympic Theater on Wednesday afternoon for their guests, Miss Katherine Desmonds and Miss Josephine Desmonds.

Doctor and Mrs. Beckmeyer, who have been visiting Mrs. Beckmeyer's mother, Mrs. Boyd, returned to their home on Tuesday.

Miss Rumsey and Miss Queen Rumsey have gone to New York to visit their sister, Mrs. David Bryson Delavan.

Miss Blanche Cannon of Kansas City is the guest of Miss Anna Boyd.

Miss Virginia Sanford will entertain a number of young women with a euchre party next Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Thomas McDearmon is entertaining the Misses Hume of Chicago.

Mrs. George Byron Knight of Troy, N. Y., who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Stutz, returned to her home on Tuesday.

The Crescent Music and Literary Club will meet this evening at its clubrooms.

Miss Maude Niedringhaus gave a small luncheon yesterday afternoon for Miss Hayes, her guest, Miss Bleakie of Boston, and Miss Sadie Pierce. The young women afterwards went to the Sothern-Harned play at the Olympic Theater.

NOTES FROM THE THEATERS

Mr. Mme Delamotta has a decided way of making the tomb scene in "Romeo and Juliet" intensely dramatic. He at first comes slowly down the steps. About half-way he espies the corpse of Juliet. Now he runs down as fast as his feet can carry him and dashes up the few steps to the bier, just as any man would do who suddenly discovers his sweetheart in a state similar to that of Juliet. The action is very natural, and stamps Mr. Delamotta the histrionic artist that he is. His passing around the bier and looking down at Juliet from the other side, so that he faces the audience as he sings, is also a bit of clever work. Next week Thomas's "Mignon" will be given. This opera has not been produced here in many years.

Mr. Sothern and his company of excellent players at the Olympic have "gotten together" very uniformly in the pronunciation of the many German names and expressions with which "The Sunken Bell" abounds. This is quite unusual, for even in the best companies players are often wide apart in this particular. To-night Mr. Sothern will produce "The King's Musketeer," which is but another title and version of Dumas's "The Three Guardsmen." Mr. Jefferson D'Angelis with Mrs. Charlie Van Studdiford as his leading soprano, will follow Mr. Sothern at the Olympic Theater in "The Jolly Musketeer."

Miss Blanche Walsh's great improvement as a Sarah Bernhardt is best visible in the plays in which she was seen here last year, "Fedora" and "La Tosca." "Gismonda" and "Cleopatra" were added to her repertoire this year. She will appear in "Cleopatra" to-night, Friday night and at the Saturday matinee. The Walsh-MacDowell engagement will close at the Century with "Fedora" Saturday night, to be followed by an adaptation of Blumenthal and Kadelburg's "At the White Horse Tavern." This successful comedy will be produced under the management of Messrs. Daniel and Charles Frohman.

"Counted Into Court" is the comedy attraction at the Grand Opera-house this week. Billy Clifford and Maud Huth head the cast, introducing a number of new specialties. With the matinee of the coming Sunday the Grand will have another Hoyt farce, "A Trip to Chinatown" this time. Some of the old Hoyt favorites are in the cast.

There is no end to the freakism in stage offers which Manager Garen is giving his patrons at Harlin's this week in the production of "Just Before Dawn." Next Sunday "Devil's Island" will be the attraction at Harlin's, made historic by the imprisonment thereon of Captain Dreyfus. The prison scene, or rather a facsimile of it, in which the French artillery officer was isolated, will be shown.

Director Heinemann of the Olympic Theater German company will take a benefit next Sunday evening with "Die Herren Seelne," a character play in three acts by Oscar Walther and Leo Stein. Miss Hermine Juenghing will appear with the company.

With the experience that comes from working together for half a season and because of the improvement made in the class of plays offered, the stock company at Hopkins's is doing its best work just now. This week's offering, "In Missouri," shows the individual members to the best advantage. Wills and Barry in their funny sketch have proved more amusing than any vaudeville act the house has had this season and will be retained another week with a new one. The stock company will produce "The Power of the Press" next week. The vaudeville will include Harry and Kate Jackson in a new sketch. Miss Isabelle Evesson's appearance as leading woman is awaited with interest. "The County Fair," with Nell Burgess, follows "The Power of the Press."

Agnes Herndon, one of the headliners in this week's Columbia vaudeville bill, presents a clever playlette entitled "A Game of Tickle-Tackle." Messrs. Albert A. Andrus and Cortland Auburn support her. The skit is by Theodore Kremer and gets its name from the game that is played during the action. A sketch out of the ordinary is offered by Will Cressy and Blanche Dayne. It is called "Grasping an Opportunity."

Ezra Kendall comes to the Columbia next week. Other good people will be Mr. and Mrs. Mark Murphy, Lillie Western, who says she is making a farewell tour of the country, Lenoy Haskell, Harry Thomson, Emmons, Ernson and Emmons, and Foy and Clarke.

The vaudeville contingent of the "Twentieth Century Maids" at the Standard is headed by Miss Deloean (The Girl by Blue), who is introducing a new Oriental dance. "Shah Ali Ben Dabb's Oriental Harem Queens" is produced in conclusion of the performance.

The fifth concert by the Choral-Symphony Society will be given at the Odeon to-night. Miss Eisa, manager, the cellist, will be the soloist of this the second artists' recital, and the major part of the programme will be in her hands. She will be heard in a half-dozen different selections.