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AUGUST 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 August, 1900, all in regular editions, was as per schedule below:

Date.	Copies.	Date.	Copies.
1	84,000	17	82,290
2	84,290	18	83,340
3	83,120	19 Sunday	85,950
4	83,570	20	83,790
5 Sunday	86,340	21	83,340
6	83,390	22	83,270
7	83,070	23	83,020
8	83,210	24	82,710
9	83,740	25	90,960
10	82,550	26 Sunday	85,940
11	83,335	27	83,520
12 Sunday	85,490	28	83,030
13	83,380	29	83,140
14	83,020	30	83,130
15	82,920	31	83,330
16	82,520		

Total for the month	2,612,795
Less all copies spoiled in printing, left over or filed	45,552
Net number distributed	2,567,243
Average daily distribution	82,814

And said W. B. Carr further says that the number of copies returned or reported unsold during the month of August was 7.22 per cent.

W. B. CARR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this first day of August, 1900.

H. M. KNOX,
Notary Public, City of St. Louis, Mo. My term expires July 12, 1901.

HORTON, THE INVISIBLE.

It will hardly be possible for Boss Baumhoff and others in charge of the campaign of Republican Candidate Horton for election to Congress from the Twelfth Congressional District of Missouri to conduct a successful "still hunt" by keeping their man out of sight while the campaign is under way.

The fact that Mr. Horton, as Boss Baumhoff's candidate and protege, is not popular with the labor element in the Twelfth District is, of course, the principal reason for the strange effort that is being made to keep a candidate in the background personally while trying to send him to the front politically.

It is this same fear of the labor vote which came so near causing the withdrawal of Mr. Horton after he had been nominated for Congress by his party's convention. Mr. Horton is in an awkward plight in the Twelfth District. His strength is the strength of Baumhoff. His weakness is the hostility to his candidacy caused by his relations with Baumhoff.

FLAD'S INSPECTION TOUR.

Water Commissioner Flad, returned from a tour of inspection of filtering plants and waterworks in European cities, voices the opinion of every St. Louisan who has given the subject intelligent consideration: "There is no better waterworks plant anywhere than that of St. Louis, but the water needs filtering."

Commissioner Flad does not discuss the possibility that the water of St. Louis is polluted. He does not have to do so in order to prove the necessity for filtering the water. All that is needed to force the conviction that the water needs filtering is to fill a clear-glass drinking vessel and look at it. St. Louis's water is unsightly.

At present the majority combine in the Municipal Assembly presents an insuperable barrier to the work of filtering St. Louis's water. That condition will continue until next April. With the election of a Municipal Assembly which will give heed to the wishes of the people the filter project will become a permanent plan.

HANNA THE WHOLE THING.

Mr. Bryan called attention to the peculiar significance of Mark Hanna's attitude in public life when he declined Hanna's challenge to a joint debate on imperialism by stating that while he, as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, would be willing to meet Mr. McKinley, the Republican candidate, in such a debate, he could not consistently debate with one whose responsibility is less than his own.

"If the Republican committee will certify," said Mr. Bryan, "that Mr. Hanna is to be President in case of Republican success, I shall willingly meet him in joint debate." This is a fair and legitimately dignified position for the Democratic standard-bearer to take. It must be so recognized by all fair-minded persons, just as would a refusal on the part of Mr. McKinley to enter into a joint debate with Chairman Jones of the Democratic National Committee, who occupies the official position in the one party's campaign organization filled by Mr. Hanna in that of the other.

Senator Hanna, however, differs from Senator Jones in that he arrogantly stands before the American people as the creator and master of the man whom the American people elected to the Presidency of the United States, and as the real power in American government if Mr. McKinley shall be again elected. It was the most natural thing in the world for Senator Hanna to challenge Mr. Bryan to a joint debate. To the mind of the Boodle Boss of the Republican party and its puppet President, the fight of 1900 is a fight between Hanna and Bryan. Mr. McKinley is a mere figurehead in that fight, manipulated by Hanna and subject to Hanna's orders. It is Hanna, therefore, who steps into the arena as the Republican champion in the battle of 1900, challenging the Democratic champion to combat, entirely ignoring the polite fiction that Mr. McKinley is the leader of the Republican hosts.

Mr. Bryan has done well to direct public attention to this usurpation by Hanna of rights that properly belong only to Mr. McKinley as Mr. Bryan's antagonist. The trust instrument in public life should pull himself together. He has for the moment forgotten and abandoned the role in which he was cast by the trusts for the fooling of the American people. He has come out in his true character of McKinley's Boss—the real President—and is kicking the Republican fat in the fire.

THE TWO TICKETS

It is to be noted as a remarkable and extremely significant feature of the campaign in Missouri that the Republicans carefully avoid any comparison of their State candidates with those named by the Democratic party on that basis of fitness for the proper discharge of public duties which is the first requisite of public office.

The Republican fight in Missouri this year, waged expressly on the issue of the vital necessity for an improved public service, should certainly not avoid an engagement in that part of the field where the abilities and equipment of the respective candidates of the two opposing parties are the factors that must decide the final issue of the combat. To the contrary, indeed, this should be the one salient point to which the Republican forces hasten for advantage. The avowed purpose of their battling is the redemption of Missouri. They should be proud to range their candidates side by side with those of the Democratic party for the purpose of convincing the people of Missouri of a Republican superiority of character, training and native ability warranting the election of the Republican State ticket.

And yet this is exactly what Missouri Republicans refuse to do. They will not abide by the result of a comparison of Flory with Dockery, nor, from this beginning, go down the line, putting Republican against Democrat and accepting the consequences of the comparison. If they or their party organs can be tempted into this line of action The Republic will be glad to have been the means of thus provoking their enlightenment of Missouri voters. If they hesitate to do this, The Republic will be more than happy to blaze the way for them, hoping that they will dare to follow. It is pitiable to see a party dodging into all possible by-ways of campaign warfare and so deliberately and persistently avoiding the great open field where the combatants can come together face to face and be sized up on their merits.

In the meantime the people of Missouri are not blind to the meaning of this studied failure of the Republican party in their State to make the issue of personal fitness for public office a vital issue in the present campaign. Missourians see in the Democratic State ticket headed by Mr. Dockery one of the strongest tickets ever named in the political history of Missouri. They see in the Republican State ticket headed by Mr. Flory a ticket of singular incapacity, obscurity and insignificance. Their votes will be cast in November for the candidates whose records of public service, whose known characters for integrity and faithfulness to duty, whose demonstrated abilities and capacity for government constitute the only certain guarantee for a wise and beneficent administration of State affairs.

CIVIL SERVICE BOASTS.

It would have been politic had President McKinley omitted from his letter of acceptance all mention of civil service reform and had his party omitted similar references from their platform. This phase of President McKinley's administration might have escaped the scrutiny which has shown its marked weaknesses.

Investigation has shown that not a single office was added to the list for whose occupancy a competitive examination is a prerequisite.

Large numbers of offices in all the governmental departments were, on the other hand, taken from the control of the Civil Service Commissioners during McKinley's term. The reason for this course was stated in McKinley's letter of acceptance thus: "It was thought these offices might better be filled by other tests of fitness in the direction of the appointing officer."

This is a poor substitute for the civil service examination under the eye of a nonpartisan Civil Service Board. It amounts practically to giving the appointing officer carte blanche in making his appointment. It places the office distinctly among the spoils of the victor.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

In an editorial pointing out the fact of the power of the lobby at Jefferson City and urging upon the voters the necessity of improving the opportunity for reform which is presented by the November elections, the Globe-Democrat naturally frames a convicting arraignment of Republican members of the Missouri State Legislature and shows the crying need of a legislative body at the State capital from which they shall be missing.

This is due to the hapless circumstance that every word which the Globe-Democrat utters against lobby legislation inevitably prefers charges against those Republican members of the State Legislature. Official records prove that the bulk of the Republican vote in the Legislature has without exception been cast for the interests and for the measures advocated by the lobby. The Republican contingent seems to have been owned body and soul by this evil influence. The very bill against which the Globe-Democrat inveighs as the supreme type of lobby legislation—the measure which made possible the street railway consolidation in St. Louis—owes its passage to the votes cast in its favor by Republican legislators and to the work done in its behalf by that especial Republican legislator who is now his party's candidate for Attorney General of Missouri.

The Globe-Democrat cannot escape the logic of its appeal for the reforming of the Missouri State Legislature. The facts in the case will compel it to admit that in accomplishing the wholesale purification for which it calls so strenuously the lobby-controlled Republican contingent must be removed. Not one Republican member can be allowed to remain in office if the power of the lobby at Jefferson City is to be effectually crippled. Surely the Globe-Democrat will not contend that the way to crush the lobby is to increase the number of these Republican legislators who never fail to vote as the lobby orders? Surely it will not argue that the State Legislature is to be reformed by electing in place of the many Democrats who have steadily and uncompromisingly voted against the lobby such Republicans as have so far been sent to the Legislature and whose votes have always been at the disposal of the lobby?

It would be interesting to hear from the Globe-Democrat on this important issue. That remarkable party organ has called aloud for the purification of the Missouri State Legislature. Its indictment of the Legislature charges that body with being owned by the lobby. The Republican members of the Legislature are unfailingly found on the side of the lobby. What is the Globe-Democrat's recommendation with regard to these men?

WILL KEEP ON FIGHTING.

Much insight into the attitude of the Filipinos toward the United States is given by the letter of Captain D. H. Allen, Democratic nominee for Congress in Indiana, who is now in Luzon with his company.

Not one Filipino in a community numbering 50,000 has availed himself of the amnesty proclamation issued by President McKinley July 27, and not a single gun has been surrendered, though the United States authorities have offered a high price for weapons in condition to be used.

There is an answer here to the assertions that but for the campaign in the United States the insurrection in the Philippines would be ended. The holding aloof of the Filipinos indicates an intention on their part of continuing their fight for independence in any event. The re-election of McKinley would mean the continuance of a bloody, expensive war in the islands. The election of Bryan would mean an immediate declaration of a Philippine policy by the United States and the end of the insurrection.

In the interval between the framing of the Republican platform of 1896 and the framing of that of 1900 only one step has been taken in regard to the Nicaragua Canal. This was that the 1896 platform favored a Nicaragua Canal, while the 1900 platform favored "an isthmian canal."

Missouri Republicans are glorying over Dick Dalton's appearance among them. The Democrats can tell them that Richard is an expensive luxury. When he doesn't get the best of the spoils he quits. What is he to have this time if either McKinley or Flory is elected?

Mark Hanna, when he tried to postpone the strike of the anthracite coal miners until after the election, showed the same kind of procrastinatory wisdom as when he tried to take the trust question out of the campaign by means of his constitutional amendment device.

When Mark Hanna declares in a public speech that he "would like to tear the mask off the face of that hypocrite, William J. Bryan," he recalls the story of the man who could always tell which side was losing by noting which side got mad first.

Nowhere in the utterances of the admired great men of the American nation can a passage be found which indorses the acquisition by the United States of a territory which geographically belongs to Europe, Asia or Africa.

"If Lincoln and Grant were alive today they would vote the Democratic ticket," remarked an Illinois ex-Republican who heard one of Stevenson's speeches. They would or else have to explain all their historic utterances.

As that of a descendant of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Mr. Thomas Wentworth Higginson's appeal for American support of Mr. Bryan is entitled to exceptionally respectful American consideration.

English Parliamentary elections follow on a campaign of only two weeks. That is another objection which Americans find to a Hamiltonian system of government modeled on that of England.

To whom did Mr. Bryan say that he would never vote for an ex-Confederate? When Republicans accuse William J. Bryan of being a fool the case calls for evidence and good evidence at that.

Hanna's speeches might be still more disastrous to his party if his hearers could untangle his English sufficiently to find out what he means to say.

It really looks as if the Indian Territory has been selected as the official experiment-station for a practical application of the creed of Empire.

Havoc wrought by a General Frost in the Ohio Valley, the lake regions and the East will not tend to reconcile the country to militarism.

St. Louis's Municipal Assembly is not working much damage to the city at present, but its summer vacation will end presently.

Are They But Dreamers?

Are they only foolish dreamers, patriot souls
that still would see
Their country steadfast to the truth that all men
are born free?
Saying to the weaker peoples, "Though we have
the arm of might,
To our rule we may not bend you; Freedom is a
human right"?
Saying to the stronger peoples, "These, the weak,
in us are strong;
They are under our protection; wronging them,
ourselves you wrong"?
Are they only foolish dreamers who would still
this doctrine hold,
Holding it the faith of freemen, as their fathers
held of old?

Are they only foolish dreamers who believe,
through Freedom's creed,
We have risen in our greatness till the Nations
now we lead?
And that, proving false to Freedom, we shall
crumble to decay,
Hated, bloodstained and dishonored, as all tyrants pass away?
Are these even but foolish dreamers who would
save their country's name
From the sin and curse of Empire, from its penalty and shame?
Who would place the love of Freedom high above
the love of Gold,
Faithful to the faith of freemen, as their fathers
were of old?

RIPLEY D. SAUNDERS.

D'OENCH-SCHMITZ AND ALLEN-HOMER WEDDINGS THIS EVENING.

MISS CLARA SCHMITZ — DOCTOR HARRY F. D'OENCH.
Their wedding will be an event of this evening at the Hauck residence, No. 905 Morrison avenue.

An important South Side wedding is to take place this evening, when Miss Clara L. Schmitz, only daughter of Mrs. Emily Schmitz, will marry Doctor Harry Frederick D'Oench, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D'Oench. The ceremony is announced for 6 o'clock, and will be performed at the old Hauck mansion, No. 905 Morrison avenue, with Judge William Zachritz, an old-time friend of the bride's family, to officiate.

The spacious rooms are to be profusely trimmed with pink flowers, palms and vines. The drawing-room, where the ceremony is to be performed, will have its doorways portiered with smilax, studded with tiny pink asters. In one corner, between the large mantel mirror and the double doors leading into the library, a background for the bridal party will be made of tall palms and ferns. The mantels will be arranged with pink roses and their foliage and the chandeliers hung with large bunches of asters and roses.

Miss Gussie Steitz, an intimate friend of the bride, is to play the wedding march as the bridal party enters.

Miss Schmitz will have a maid of honor, Miss Lucille Erskine; a bridesmaid, Miss Frances Siemon, and a little ring-bearer, Miss Eugenia Hauck. The bride will be given away by her uncle, Doctor Louis Hauck. Doctor D'Oench will be assisted by Edward Raush as best man, and by Ralph Meier as groomsman.

The bride has chosen a gown of white Paris muslin over white silk, with trimmings of old Valenciennes lace on the bodice and a fichu of mull and lace. The skirt is demitrained and fashioned simply. A tulle veil will be worn. The bridal bouquet will be of lilies of the valley, which are exceedingly difficult to procure at this season, and have been grown especially for this wedding in Cincinnati.

The maid of honor's frock is white Paris muslin, with touches of pink in its garniture, pink panne being employed as a girdle, and also for chaux on the bodice. The bridesmaid will wear a frock almost identical, both being cut with low-necked bodices. Pink bouquets of roses will be carried by each. The little ring-bearer's frock is white point d'esprit, over pink taffeta, with tiny pink ribbons. She will carry the wedding ring on a cushion of pink carnations and white passion flowers.

Mrs. Schmitz, the bride's mother, will wear black satin-striped grenadine, trimmed in old point lace.

The wedding ceremony will be followed by a supper, the guests confined to relatives, numbering about fifty. This evening the bride and bridegroom are to depart for the East, where they will visit for several weeks. Their cards announce their at-home days to be Mondays, November 5 and November 19, at No. 261 St. Vincent avenue, where they will go to housekeeping.

Miss Schmitz comes of the well-known Hauck family, one of the most influential on the South Side. Her grandmother, Mrs. Antonia Hauck, will be the oldest guest at the wedding. Some of the others are:

Messieurs and Mesdames—
Charles D'Oench, Eugene Hauck,
Frederick Metz, Sr., Frederick Metz, Jr.,
Omaha. Omaha.
Mesdames—
George Bohrer, Cincinnati. L. Windisch, Cincinnati.
Antonia Hauck.
Misses—
Laura Waters, Norma Windisch,
Martha V. Flickner, Cincinnati;
Lulu Steitz, Doctor J. Cassel
Elsie Bohrer, Cincinnati; Backwalter, Cincinnati.

Miss Ruth Louise Homer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bradford Homer of No. 469 Morgan street, and Mr. George Franklin Allen will be married this evening at 7 o'clock at the home of the bride, the Reverend Doctor Howard S. MacAyeal performing the ceremony.

The house is to be much decorated with golden rod and greens, a large bell of the autumn flower being suspended between the drawing-room windows, under which the couple will stand for the service.

Four children will form an aisle of white satin ribbons and bouquets of golden rod, down which the bridal party will pass. They are Miss Leonora Strasburger, Miss Mary Homer, Master Bradford Homer and Master Allan Wilder. Masses of the yellow golden rod will be used in all the fireplaces and on the mantels, with vases and jardinieres in all the rooms.

The bride will wear white peau de sole, the bodice made with unlined guimpe and sleeves of point d'esprit and trimmed in pearls. Her veil of tulle will be fastened with pearls and at her throat will be worn a large diamond brooch. She will carry a prayer book bound in white silk, instead of the usual bouquet.

Miss Homer's only attendant will be Miss Alice Adair, who is to appear in yellow mousseline over taffeta, trimmed in white lace, with a fichu of old point about the shoulders. The bridesmaid's bouquet will be of white roses. The little girls are to be frocked alike in yellow, with low round necks and much trimming of lace ruffles.

Walter Allen will be the best man.

The ceremony will be followed by a reception, held on the lawn, if the weather permits, striped marquees being erected for the purpose. About 150 guests will be present. To-night the bride and bridegroom will depart for a journey to various Eastern cities, taking up their residence at No. 4338 Laclede avenue on their return. Their house is already furnished and ready for occupancy.

Miss Ada Grier has returned from the East, where she spent the summer.

The marriage of Miss Effie L. Gormley and Walter D. Coleman took place on Tuesday, September 11, at St. Louis. They will be at home after October 15.

Miss Laura M. Hunziker and Berthold Widmann were married yesterday afternoon at the home of the bride's father, Adolph A. Hunziker, in Maplewood. The wedding guests were confined to the relatives and a few intimate friends. The house was decorated with flowers and greens, blue and white being the colors employed.

The bride wore white organdy over taffeta and carried a bouquet of bride roses. Miss Gia Kellerman was the bridesmaid, wearing a white gown.

The best man was Oscar Bausch. Two flower children assisted—Miss Katherine Stifel and Master Oscar Widmann. After a wedding supper Mr. and Mrs. Widmann departed for the North. They will live at No. 2318 Hartford street.

"SELF AND LADY" PRODUCED.

Frohman's New Play by Decourcelles Well Received in London.

London, Sept. 19.—At the Vaudeville Theater this evening Messrs. Charles Frohman and A. & S. Gatti produced a new farcical comedy by Pierre Decourcelles, entitled "Self and Lady," which proved a great success.

The performance did not lag from start to finish, but sparkled with fun throughout. It promises to be one of the successes of the London season. Miss Elaine Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks have the leading parts, and are admirably supported.

MERCHANTS MEET IN PEORIA.

Large Attendance From Two States at Annual Meeting.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Peoria, Ill., Sept. 19.—The annual meeting of the Western Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association opened in Peoria today and up to to-night 200 visiting merchants, representing the business interests of many Illinois and Iowa towns, have registered. Several hundred other merchants are expected to come into Peoria during the remaining days of the week. The visitors were entertained at the theater to-night.

MRS. FIRMIN FUSZ.
Who was Miss Marie Craft until Tuesday morning

A NEW LEADING MAN— THE LOCAL PLAYHOUSE.

Timothy Murphy's conception of the Sol Smith Russell character of David Holmes.

Mr. Ratcliffe, the new leading man at the Imperial Theater, is a square-cut, rosy-cheeked chap, who looks as if he might hold his own in the prize ring, in a wrestling match, or in a free-for-all mix-up. In running conversation and in his general appearance he has none of the characteristics of your accepted matinee hero. His mustache, instead of being long and silken, is short and bristly; his hair does not tumble about his forehead like Lawrence Hanley's used to do, but brushes back rather stiffly. He moves about jerkily and without what is generally called grace. He is positive in manner and jolly in his geniality. Yet they say that Mr. Ratcliffe is a rattling good actor these days, and that we may look for some of his old-time form when the Imperial season is once well along.

They are saying many pleasant things about Miss Cecil, the new leading woman at the Imperial. It is asserted that she is one of the cleverest of the newcomers. Mr. Giffen, the manager, says that she is wonderfully gifted. Of course, one would expect Mr. Giffen to say something like this, being the manager who is interested in the success of the enterprise, but he says his compliments in such a way that one is forced to the conclusion that he means them all.

Mr. Timothy Murphy must get over the idea that his name needs changing. What this gifted comedian wants to do is to stick to the name that his folks gave him. For the serious work that he is now undertaking the contraction, Tim, seems a bit too light, while Timothy has a dignity about it that no one can deny. In a speech the other night Mr. Murphy said, with some seriousness, that he proposed to be known in the future as Tym Murphi, which means that he is talking about a way of making himself ridiculous. Mr. Murphy is a good actor and he has a good Irish name. A lot of people have come to know and like him by that name, and he must not lose the faith there residing. Now that he is under the management of Fred Berger, who helped much toward the success of Sol Smith Russell, half of his hard battle on the road to success has been fought and won. But it must be as Mr. Timothy Murphy that he must go on. Tym Murphi, indeed!

* * * *

Mr. John Mason, leading man for Mr. Daniel Frohman's company—which, by the way, he no longer calls the Lyceum Company—is one of the veteran youngsters on the stage. There are middle-aged men who remember Mr. Mason as a brilliant figure at the Boston Museum many years ago; yet, when they see him at the Olympic Theater next week, they will find that he is yet a mere boy.

This fact was noted by many persons when Mr. Mason played Tom Wrench in "Trelawney of the Wells" at the Olympic Theater last season. Stuart Robson, although much older, of course, than Mr. Mason, is a man who keeps young—in the public eye, at least. It will surprise most folks to learn that Mr. Robson is well above 60. James O'Neill is another man of the stage who is a good many years young.

At an actors' boarding-house not many months ago I sat across the table from a well-preserved, round-faced woman who seemed to know a good deal about the stage. Her name was Clark. Later on I asked about her.

"That's Annie Clark," said my guide. A Boston man was with me.

"I wonder if she's any kin to the Annie Clark who used to be at the Boston museum a good many years ago?"

"Kin?" said the guide, "why, she's the same."

She seemed like a youngster. What is it that keeps old age away from show folks? Certainly not an easy life, for they work as hard, if not a little harder, than the most of us.

* * * *

Miss Lillian Coleman, whose beauty and voice have attracted some favorable attention at the Century Theater this week, stands in need of instruction as to the manner of her singing and the position of her body while the song goes on. A good master might improve her voice immeasurably by showing her how to use it, and the attention of a stage manager for a few minutes would be enough to tell her that she might change her attitude once or twice in a five stanza ballad. And that pretty face of hers, which should break into a smile as the tune goes on, needs a little illuminating instruction. It may be that Miss Coleman thinks that she is pretty enough to let the other things go, but she need but try a little improvement to learn that an audience wants something more than pink and white in its soubrettes.

* * * *

Maude Lillian Berri, who was something of a delight to many persons who attended the Music Hall opera last season, is regularly engaged as the prima donna soprano of Mr. Savage's opera in Chicago. Miss Berri may sing here a few times in the course of the forthcoming St. Louis season.

* * * *

Mr. Henry Miller, one of the best of all the serious actors in the United States, has just hurried East from San Francisco to get treatment for an obstinate ailment of the throat. Mr. Miller played in San Francisco all of the summer, and was bound eastward with "The Only Way"—not copyrighted by Jere Hunt—when he found that his voice was failing him. Taking the advice of his physician he turned his part in the production over to E. J. Morgan and took a fast train for New York, where he is now under treatment.

* * * *

There will be a good deal of interest in the new leading woman of the Lyceum company at the Olympic Theater next week. Last year the place was charmingly filled by Mary Mannering, who is now getting ready for a season of "Janice Meredith." Miss Spong is the newcomer. She is the daughter of an English scene painter. When she was quite a little girl she was taken to Australia and there she grew up. It was from that far-off land that she came to the United States. When she was in St. Louis last season she was playing a very giggly part in "Trelawney," but this season she has all of the first places.

* * * *

Here is a little story about a young woman who is to appear at the Grand Opera-house next week in "Piney Ridge," a tree drama with atmosphere thick enough to cut. The girl in question is Miss Evelyn Parson, a very pretty young lady, whose home has always been in this city. About four years ago, Miss Parson concluded that she wanted to be an actress. In some way she acquired the strange idea that a stepping stone to stage work would be an experience in journalism. So she set about to undertake the difficult profession of newspaper making. She soon found that a daily journal has none of the characteristics of a theatrical post road, and it was not many days, therefore, until she explained her true position and started for the stage by a more direct route. She went to New York and went through all the hard knocks of application. She came home again, but it was not with a heavy heart. She tried the local stock companies. It was not long before she was prancing around the stage at the Imperial with red roses in her hair, playing a young lady of Seville—for the drama was "Carmen." All this time Miss Parson was very hard at work. She took instruction at a local school of acting, visited the theaters when celebrities were there, and otherwise worked, talked and dreamed of her new and loved profession. She once said that she meant to be a Nethersole, and if she keeps up that wonderful energy of hers she will succeed. At present, Miss Parson will find "Piney Ridge" a long way from a legitimate success, but she doesn't mean to stop for a minute.

Current Bills.

At the Century this week "The Burgomaster" is making friends for itself and its players. For the coming week the musical comedy, "A Runaway Girl," will be the bill. It is one of last season's favorites. The play comes to St. Louis this year with sixty people in its organization, with Mr. Arthur Dunn, the well-known comedian, in the leading comedy role of "Flipper," the English jockey.

The repertory of the Daniel Frohman's company, formerly of the Lyceum, now of Daly's, New York, which will play at the Olympic next week, consists of the three most successful plays of the company's last New York season. "The Masqueraders," by Henry Arthur Jones; "The Ambassador," by Mrs. Craigie, and "Wheels Within Wheels," by R. C. Carton, are the three comedies in which the thirty-two members of the company will appear.

The Imperial Theater will open next Sunday with "The Great Ruby," a play that is said to possess a more coherent story than is usual with English melodramas. The play was brought to America by the late Augustin Daly. The stage setting for it is elaborate and fine scenic effect is striven for. The balloon scene is adroitly handled. The villain disappears into the clouds in a balloon, but is dropped back to earth in time to be punished.

Tom Nixon's new sketch, called "Pat and the Genii," seems to please the patrons of the Columbia as much as anything the genial Irish comedian ever did. Pearl Andrews gives an imitation of famous stage people, and James O. Barrows and company present their comedietta, "Tactics." Other good people on the bill are Callahan and Mack, the Harris-Walters trio, John E. Camp, Maud Beal Price and William Foote. Next week the four Cohens, in their new act, "Money to Burn," may be seen.

The Music Hall at the Exposition this year is provided with vaudeville performances by Colonel John D. Hopkins, which are proving a strong attraction. An interesting act is that of the ponies, cats and dogs, which Professor Morris has trained. The Florence troupe of acrobats, Mlle. Ouri and Till's marionettes furnish other entertainment.

At the Odeon to-night, in the large hall, the chorus of the St. Louis Musical Festival will rehearse Mendelssohn's "Forty-Second Psalm," under the direction of Mr. E. R. Kroeger. The chorus has grown in numbers this year. There will be room on the Odeon stage to-night for 800 vocalists, and fully 700 singers were entitled to co-operation with the chorus at the last rehearsal. Monster concerts will be given at the Coliseum.

"The Cowboy's Daughter," at Havlin's Theater, is drawing good crowds. Melodrama is favored by audiences at Manager Garen's theater. Next week a play on the same order, with the suggestive and attractive title "A Homespun Heart," will be presented. The leading woman is Miss Lillian Harris. A chicken fight will be one of the features of the play.

Mountains in the summertime will be seen at the Grand Opera-house next week, when the play will be "At Piney Ridge." East Tennessee is the home of the principals of the story. The leading role will be taken by the author, David Higgins, assisted by Miss Georgia Waldron and others of last year's company. Miss Evelyn Parson of St. Louis will play the leading juvenile role.

Next week Ed F. Rush's bon-ton burlesquers will be the chief attraction at the Standard. The opening performance will be "The Homely Twins," by Joe H. Gates, and the vaudeville portions of the programme will introduce Byron and Langdon, Gladys Van, the Barrett brothers, Mlle. Dazzle to "Morning, Noon and Night," Shayne and Werden, Viola Sheldon and Dave Newline.

COMPANY A REUNION.

Big Time Expected at Rinkel's Grove Next Saturday.

The local members of the Third United States Volunteer Engineers are manifesting keen interest in the Company A reunion, which is to take place at Rinkel's Grove, No. 3858 Easton avenue, next Saturday afternoon. More than two-thirds of the company came from St. Louis, and a large proportion of these are still in the city. Some members of the company are in the regular army; others are in the newer volunteer regiments in Manila. Every member of the regiment is urged to attend. A good time is anticipated by all. Refreshments will be served and popular melodies will be rendered by the Third Engineer Band. In case of rain, the large hall on the grounds will be at the service of those who attend.

The committee in charge of affairs is: Luther Ely Smith, W. P. Schuster, W. T. Schilling, J. C. Griffith, W. E. Hazard, A. B. Ecoff, Jr.; W. J. Pennington, J. P. Cody and L. L. Berry.