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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1908.

The Gas Company's Annual Report.

The annual report of the Washington Gas Light Company for 1907 has been sent to Congress. It is, like the one issued in December, incomplete, confusing, and obviously calculated to obscure rather than enlighten.

This report shows—or seems to show—these things: That the company is already earning 6 per cent interest on \$2,600,000 of water in its capital. That it is earning and paying 10 per cent on the \$2,600,000 of capital represented by stock.

That after giving invested or imaginary capital these handsome returns, the company still has \$331,982 left over. From this it reports that it carried \$62,089 to the renewal reserve fund, used \$130,602 for "extension of plant and for construction," and still had a surplus from the year's operations of \$139,000.

All this proves conclusively that the company doesn't need a capital increase. Its income is regularly providing a renewal fund, and is regularly ample to make a huge investment in new construction, while also paying large profits.

How much surplus has piled up in all these years for which no reports have been made? Nobody knows; the company doesn't tell. The amount must be big; big enough to make the management want another stock dividend, which it is going to get if Congress doesn't interfere.

How much money of the people does the company hold in meter deposits? The report doesn't tell. The company reports 44,792 consumers, which at \$10 each would near the half-million point.

This report absolutely proves that the company doesn't need an increase of capital except for one purpose: just one. That is to enable it to absorb its profits more easily, and digest them more gracefully.

Making Doctors in China.

Now and then China does something that tends to disturb the Occident in its complacent belief that we know it all, or at least that the Orient knows nothing that we need to be told.

Here comes Viceroy Chang Ching with the plans and specifications for a new college of medicine in the Chinese capital, and the wisdom and foresight displayed is of the sort that makes people sit up and take notice.

As the school is to afford the highest medical training for the young men of the entire empire, it shall not employ men of its faculty who do not come with the highest possible recommendations.

"Trial practice" looks to a layman like a rather brilliant idea. Now, in this country the qualified doctors seem to get their trial practice after they have been turned loose on the community.

Putting Sand in the Cogs.

Three hard-headed, practical men, with knowledge of furniture and equipment, were directed by the District Commissioners to prepare a plan for furnishing the new District building. They went to work. Their estimate was for \$142,000—about 6 per cent of the cost of the building and site, and about 4 per cent less than the usual cost of furnishing Government buildings in Washington.

Any Congressman, were the building in question a postoffice for his home town, would object to carry-

ing old furniture from the temporary quarters to the new. He would argue—rightly—that the equipment of the modern building ought to be as modern, as convenient, as safe from fire, and as labor saving as money could make it.

The District Commissioners have not done this—altogether. Their advisers have provided for fireproof file cases, and good, plain, usable, simple furniture, not ornamental save in its plainness, and in the fact that it conforms generally with the interior finish of the building.

The House, which set itself a good example in providing for its own office building, forgot the example, and cut down this estimate by \$35,000. Senator Gallinger now proposes to put back that amount into the urgency deficiency bill, thus restoring the total to the figure recommended by the Commissioners. It should go without saying that this should be done. This country and this Capital know no lack of funds which would justify putting sand in the cogs of their Government.

Now that the Pullman Company has given its porters a bonus it is to be hoped it won't be long till its patrons get some sort of a rebate from the porters.

Mayor McClellan, having vetoed New York's smoke law, the women will probably lose all interest in the question. A woman never wants to do a thing so much as when you don't want her to do it.

If this idea of Toledo's "Golden Rule Judge" of trying his sentences on himself spreads some of our magistrates are going to look so well behind the bars that the public will both to have them get out again.

Free lunches are barred in Wilmington, Del., well, there are other places.

PRESIDENT'S AID AGAINST LABOR IS NOW SOUGHT

Hundred Firms Might Recover Damages Under Supreme Court Decision.

Federation May Seek Repeal of Offending Section of Sherman Law.

As a result of the sweeping anti-boycott decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, a movement has already been started among manufacturers who are represented on the "unfair list" of the American Federation of Labor, to petition President Roosevelt for relief.

Daniel Davenport, one of the attorneys for Lowe & Co., of Danbury, Conn., the complainant in the case decided yesterday, is authority for the statement that the matter will be brought to the President's attention in the near future. He points to the paragraph in the recent special message to Congress in which the President declared that he would enforce the law against labor unions as quickly as against the big corporations.

Hundred Firms Might Recover. That section of the Sherman anti-trust act which provides for the collection of three times the amount of damages sustained by the victim of an unlawful conspiracy in restraint of trade, is now declared to be a valid law by the highest tribunal in the land, and will remain so until Congress shall repeal it.

President Gompers still declines to discuss the decision, or to indicate his future line of action. It is considered likely, however, that the energies of the leaders of organized labor will now be concentrated in a determined effort to secure a repeal of the section of the statute upon which yesterday's decision was based. It is pointed out that the President himself has repeatedly advocated amendment of the law, so that certain forms of combination might be permitted.

Laborers May Lose Homes. Should the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court be enforced to its limit against the American Federation of Labor, that organization would be well high wrecked. In the Danbury case some damages to the extent of \$80,000 were claimed against the United Union and pending adjudication \$180,000 worth of property owned by individual members has been tied up by attachment proceedings. As a result, some of the members will lose their homes, and all their savings.

In this connection, the presence in Washington at this time of James W. Van Cleave, of St. Louis, president of the American Manufacturers' Association, who has been fighting the American Federation of Labor for the last two years, is considered significant. He is here with a number of other manufacturers, ostensibly to urge upon Congress the desirability of appointing a permanent tariff commission as advocated by Senator Beveridge.

Such is the olive branch, raised on the pedestal of a threat, that capital, through its representative, James W. Van Cleave, of St. Louis, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, presents today to labor.

Van Cleave is in Washington as a member of a delegation of manufacturers to urge Congress to pass the bill providing for a tariff commission.

This decision of the Supreme Court, which leaves the framers of organized labor, and if workmen would act wisely, they will obey the mandate of the court. Such attitude will deserve and will receive the respect and consideration of their employers.

It rejoices in this decision, for it is the culmination of a long and arduous struggle. I have always had an abiding faith in the Constitution and the law of the country as interpreted by our Supreme Court.

"I sincerely hope that organized labor will recognize the justice of the decision. Counsel advises me that acts committed in similar situations will make each individual member of the American Federation of Labor liable to criminal prosecution. Workmen in my employ, I am sure, would dislike to go to the penitentiary or sacrifice the savings of a lifetime because of some act of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor in boycotting a manufacturer. Here is something for workmen to think about. It would be too bad if the employers should be forced to drastic measures by reason of further violation of their rights."

TOO STRENUOUS. He loved the maid devotedly. And swore he'd win, at any cost—He lost ten pounds and now he says that he, forsooth, has loved and lost.

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PERPETUAL. "But, tell me," begged the persistent suitor, after the fourth rebuff, "is there nothing I may hope for?" "Oh, yes," she replied, graciously, "forever."—Exchange.

THE CAST IN "ROSMERSHOLM" WITH STANDING AND ROBERTS

The Cast in "Rosmersholm." John Rosmer, of Rosmersholm, formerly clergyman of the parish..... Bruce McFadden. Rebecca West, in charge of Rosmer's household..... Edna May. Rebecka Kroll, Rosmer's brother-in-law..... Fuller Mellich. Urie Brendel..... Albert Arliss. Peter Mortensgard, editor of the Beacon..... Albert Brunning. Madame Helseth housekeeper Rosmersholm..... Florence Montgomery.

Mrs. Fiske has reached the summit of dramatic art in her delineation of the leading role in Henrik Ibsen's "Rosmersholm." Her characterization must be recognized as one of the few genuine masterpieces in our American gallery of modern stage portraiture. In her impersonation of Rebecca West she gave a physical embodiment to the psychological side of a dual personality and did it with such directness and force that the playwright's own conception of his character was transmitted to everyone in the audience: How do we know? Because there was a deathlike stillness throughout the Belasco last night, during all the big scenes, when play and the audience almost forgot to breathe, an awesome silence for a few moments after the fall of each curtain.

Seldom indeed has there been seen in Washington a more thoroughly impressed audience than that which filed solemnly out of the Belasco after the shocking tragedy which, concerning the mill race outside the Rosmer home in the last act. The tragedy was real to the audience, for from the opening lines in the play when the servant declared that the dead of Rosmersholm held the living there was built up ever increasing force and certainty the impending gloom of the final moment which was almost inevitable.

Mrs. Fiske has never done anything more fascinatingly weird than her Rebecca West and she has never before handled so subjective a role with such penetrating analysis and material expression as to make it intelligible to the great body of theatergoers. The actor or actress who can portray for us every mood and feeling of a stage character is capable. He or she who can make us see the thought behind the action of a stage creature deserves a higher medal of praise, but the actress who can do this, and who, when the actor or actress does forth in a visible form or transmits telegraphically, one so clearly and so truthfully the meaning of the part, the combat of the two personalities in the one man or woman, it is this that Mrs. Fiske has accomplished in the characterization of Rebecca West.

In the first act Mrs. Fiske evinced a keenness of intellect and a dramatic harmony with the character she portrayed, was almost irritating in its apparent uncontrol. Her peculiar manner of dramatic interpretation, the force of her sentences was also marked. Beginning with the second act, however, the impression of a task became more and more the full power and resources of the actress and the objectionable features of her work were almost entirely eliminated. Her reading and a technique which was altogether admirable, and which was the result of a suggestion of theatricalism.

In the third act, in which Rebecca confesses her scheme of unseating the doctor, the dramatic intensity of her performance was almost irritating in its apparent uncontrol. Her peculiar manner of dramatic interpretation, the force of her sentences was also marked. Beginning with the second act, however, the impression of a task became more and more the full power and resources of the actress and the objectionable features of her work were almost entirely eliminated. Her reading and a technique which was altogether admirable, and which was the result of a suggestion of theatricalism.

Perhaps the most difficult phase of the drama, that of the last act, in which Rebecca endeavors to explain to Rosmer why she confessed her crime. It is in this act that the actress, in her stand in a vague, mystical way the inscrutable processes of the human soul. The dramatist gives only a suggestion of what lies behind the scenes, but the actress adds to this suggestion that vitalizing quantity which quickens the imagination and leaves the audience with the intellectual pleasure of the solution.

Mrs. Fiske is surrounded by a notable cast. The art, but not the actors in "Rosmersholm," and each of these has been entrusted to persons of rare distinction and fine powers of dramatic interpretation. Bruce McFadden plays Rosmer with dignity, poise and admirable self-control. His ease of manner and thoughtful demeanor, and his sense of the effectiveness of the production and in the last act there is a note of strong human appeal in his part.

Rector Kroll of Fuller Mellich and George Arliss is always a genuine delight. His role in "Leah Kleschna" and his Englishman in "The New York Mystery" are excellent examples of his unique stage characters. And now he completes a trilogy with his Urie Brendel, a former tutor of Rosmer's, who is the play's first and most important antagonist. He has had a few moments on the stage in the first and last acts, but he has made a valuable addition to stage pictures. There is a fascination about the long-haired, quasi-rational being of Ibsen's creation that is compelling.

Albert Brunning as Peter Mortensgard has even less to do than Mr. Arliss, but he interprets the role of the editor of the socialist organ, "The Beacon," with such finesse and precision that he, too, deserves a large share of applause for the part. Miss Florence Montgomery's performance, as Mme. Helseth, the housekeeper, came only during the last act, but she has made a valuable contribution to the audience to leave the theater with the thought that here, too, was an actress of no mean ability.

"Rosmersholm" is staged with much taste and elaborateness by Harrison Grey Fiske.

Lyceum—"California Girls." "The Sultan's Wives" and "The Girls From Chelsea" musical comedies with plots, are presented by the California Girls at the New Lyceum this week. With the olio they comprise one of the best attractions of the season. Sam J. Adams and William Munsey divide honors with a good-looking chorus. Gladys St. John and Tillie Cohen as the Ruffy Fluffy Girls are pleasing. La Bonte and M. J. O'Connell are good in songs and dances captured the favor of the audience, as did May Orietta, contralto, and Fred W. Taylor. The three Henans present an excellent bicycle act.

GRIPPING PLAY AT COLUMBIA WITH STANDING AND ROBERTS. The Cast in "The Right Way." Dr. Weidman..... Van Dusen Phillips. Dr. Weidman..... Van Dusen Phillips. Dr. Weidman..... Van Dusen Phillips.

SKINNER ANOTHER PETRUCHIO IN "THE HONOR OF THE FAMILY" WITH STANDING AND ROBERTS. The Cast. Colonel Philippe Bridau..... Otis Skinner. Colonel Philippe Bridau..... Otis Skinner. Colonel Philippe Bridau..... Otis Skinner.

POLITICAL DEBATE Bourke Cockran Scores the President and Advocates Bryan's Policies.

A storm of political debate swept over the House late yesterday afternoon. It was participated in by some of the ablest speakers, and it reached to Presidential politics, Republican and Democratic, in the most vigorous fashion.

The chief feature of the debate was the public announcement by Representative Bourke Cockran of New York, long an opponent of Bryan, that he was converted to the Nebraska and would henceforth be found listed with the hosts that are clamoring for his election as President. Mr. Cockran did not mention Mr. Bryan by name, but there was no doubt of his meaning.

Mr. Cockran spoke for an hour following an address by Representative Townsend of Michigan, who defended the President as to rate legislation and other policies. Cockran commended the President's message, saying that he should not accept re-nomination without dishonor, and asserted there was but one crusader who could carry out the President's policy.

Representative Sherwood of Ohio denounced Roosevelt in powerful terms. Representative Hays of Iowa closed the debate, declaring "in everything that the President has done the American people stand behind him, in every respect, and he has made the American people are back of him. They hold up his hands and demand legislation that will make his recommendations effective through the country."

HEIRS ORGANIZE TO GET \$30,000,000 Washingtonians in Association of Baltimore.

A dozen or more residents of Washington, who claim to be the heirs to certain vast property in Baltimore, have joined in a movement to institute suit for \$30,000,000 against the city of Baltimore. The sixty-odd heirs from Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, organized in the last named city January 4 under the name of the Fell's Point Association.

A meeting of the organization was held last night in Philadelphia and the sixty-five members present, at the invitation of William Peto, of Philadelphia, who was chosen temporary chairman, subscribed something over \$200 to be used in pushing the claims of the association. Besides the amount claimed to be due for ground rents and leases now held by the city of Baltimore, a fight will be made for the accumulation of interest and the increase in valuation of the property in question.

A few of those who attended last night refused to be a party to the suit, giving as their reason that they failed to see satisfactory grounds for the recovery of so many millions of dollars. Other members of the association, however, were very enthusiastic in their attitude and asserted that the proposed action will be begun within two months at the latest.

A committee of five was appointed to go to Baltimore and personally assist the attorney, Frederick M. C. Chase, of Baltimore, in arriving at more definite facts and figures in the case. Those composing this committee are Coroner J. M. Rush Jermon, of Philadelphia, A. Martin, Dr. Mary Anger, S. D. Manuel, and Theodore E. Payne.

GIRL ANSWERS HIS "AD," MARRIAGE MAY FOLLOW SHERIDAN, Wyo., Feb. 4.—In response to a letter which J. K. Roskodd, of Delta, Wyo., sent to the Woman's Club, of Chicago, with a request for a wife, a woman, who says she was sent by the club, arrived in Sheridan.

She handed Station Agent J. J. Renne a card. On one side was the inscription, "Miss M. Eaton, dealer in dry goods and ladies' furnishings, Valdez, Alaska." On the other side was the name of Roskodd and his message, "If you are willing to be my wife, please write me. I am a good catch." Renne sent the card to Roskodd, who at once made preparations to find the woman, with the intention of making her his wife. She was good-looking and of the blonde type. Roskodd came to Sheridan at once on receipt of the news and will probably go to Valdez, Alaska, and see the girl. He is a good-looking, stalwart miner, who has had a college education.

FORAKER MEETS DEFEAT IN REPUBLICAN CLUB COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 4.—The Foraker forces got a hard blow in the meeting of the Republican State central committee here yesterday, when the committee amended the call for the State convention so as to allow the counties with but one certified elector to dispense with primaries and send the men certified on the one ticket as delegates to the convention.

The Foraker men refused to vote.

ENGLISH IS COMPULSORY Prof. Edward Engel, commenting in the Berliner Tageblatt on the recent action of the Berlin school authorities in raising the study of English in the high schools, says that the compulsory study list, says that the resolution by which English is advanced and French placed on the elective list should have been adopted many years ago. "They have done," he says, "what would have resulted a generation ago had they paid heed to the motto, 'Be educated for life, not for school.' With what right did we until now make French a compulsory study and English elective, as we do today?" He states at length the advantages of English over French, and says that the school authorities should have adopted many years ago. "They have done," he says, "what would have resulted a generation ago had they paid heed to the motto, 'Be educated for life, not for school.' With what right did we until now make French a compulsory study and English elective, as we do today?" He states at length the advantages of English over French, and says that the school authorities should have adopted many years ago. "They have done," he says, "what would have resulted a generation ago had they paid heed to the motto, 'Be educated for life, not for school.' With what right did we until now make French a compulsory study and English elective, as we do today?" He states at length the advantages of English over French, and says that the school authorities should have adopted many years ago.

"Is the proprietor in?" asked the visitor. "No, sir," replied the office boy. "Is he in the city?" "Yes, sir." "Will he be back soon?" "No, sir." "Tonight?" "No, sir." "Tomorrow some time?" "No, sir." "Did he leave any word for Mr. Nason?" "No, sir." "The stranger looked at the office boy sharply. "When did he go?" "Yesterday afternoon." "Didn't he say when he'd be back?" "No, sir." "Where the dickens is he?" "At the undertaker's." "What's the matter?" "He's dead."—Harper's Weekly.

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SUN PEOPLE ILLUMINATED. Inventor of the "soul kiss," who claims to have visited the planets, says the sun people are eight feet tall and highly illuminated. They are all bald headed, and each faculty in the head scintillates like a jewel. The head appears like an incriminated ornament or diadem, dazzling with rubies, emeralds, sapphires, and diamonds. All of which may comfort some afflicted mortals.—Exchange.