

THE TOPICS OF CHICAGO

Some Timely Chatter from the Western Metropolis.

The Young Men of the City Are Breaking Into Politics—Odds for the Centennial Celebration of This Fall.

Chicago.—Chicago's "most eligible bachelor" is spoken for, Miss Grace Greenway Brown, youngest daughter of one of the "oldest and most aristocratic" families of Maryland having made the fortunate reservation. At any rate one might gather from Chicago headlines that Mr. Palmer's good fortune is but second to the good fortune of his fiancée. But then it must be taken into consideration that Chicago is pretty well pleased with Mr. Palmer and is not yet very well acquainted with Miss Brown. This Baltimore family, however, is well represented in the lake city, one daughter having married Walter W. Keith and another having become the bride of Marshall Field's nephew.

Honore Palmer's social position makes him one of the best known exponents of the "new blood" that has lately been forced into the city council. His campaign two years ago, as the "silk stocking" democratic candidate from the Twenty-first ward was a novel political feature for Chicago, and one that became significant when he won. Although the republicans this year put up a strong man in the person of Fletcher Dobyns the impetus of Mr. Palmer's initial term and his renewed energy carried him to victory and a second term. While young Palmer has done nothing brilliant in the council he is regarded as a very satisfactory indication of progress in the journey towards a clean council and honest politics.

Among the other members of the council who are not politicians but conscientious men and careful students of municipal affairs, and who are for that reason really the backbone of the newer council, may be mentioned Alderman Milton J. Foreman, Frank I. Bennett, Henry T. Edmann, Walter J. Raymer and Charles Werno.

Problem of the "Levee."

Residents of the South side in Chicago who have occasion to use the Cottage Grove cable line have lately had their attention arrested by a very remarkable activity in the reconstruction of old buildings in the vicinity of Twenty-second street. Almost every night, so it seemed, several old structures took on new white pillared fronts and a rejuvenated appearance. But after the first surprise of it, the discovery was made that all their beauty, like that of the "painted lady of Double Dykes," was false. Citizens are now declaring that the new levee must go.

The whole problem in a city like Chicago is serious. The levee cannot be eradicated by law. The use of too stringent measures, say the authorities, is like attempting to extinguish burning oil with water: the evil only spreads into new districts. When the elder Harrison was mayor he swept all illegitimate resorts into one general neighborhood. He did not attempt to destroy them wholly.

Gradually, because the street car patrons demanded it, State and Clark streets were purged, at least so far as outward appearances went. The levee, thus further restricted, moved south and east between streets. Proprietors of showy saloons who thrive best near evil resorts and who cannot afford to leave the thoroughfares have now tried Wabash avenue, some of them spending \$20,000 or \$30,000 in repairing old buildings. But the vigilance committee of citizens is after them, and Chicago awaits their next move.

The Indians Are Coming.

We are informed that a feature of Chicago's centennial celebration next fall will be the invasion of the city by Indians from six different tribes, who will come down the lake in their canoes as their forefathers did a century ago, land down by the Goodrich docks, otherwise the old Fort Dearborn landing, and there reenact old scenes. Let us hope, only in part. With the proper restrictions on the actions of the red men, however, this exhibition will be well worth seeing. Henry E. Weaver, a Chicagoan, has saved a section of the old fort and this will be set up as near the spot it originally occupied as possible. The Indians will live on the lake front in their tepees and enter late barrier and trade at the fort, as

their grandfathers did of old. Incidentally, they will probably make more money in an hour out of the Chicago crowd than their grandfathers did in a month. They will sell mats, porcupine quill work, bead work, baskets, canoes and skins. The canoe races, swimming matches and picturesque Indian tilting contests with which the Indians of the last century amused the traders, will be enacted again for society and the street rabble of the metropolis.

When the grandfathers of the present Indians did business in Chicago the inhabitants of the post hired persons to haul drinking water from the Chicago river. Now, as has been recently estimated, Chicago people annually consume a quantity of water equal to a square quarter of a mile in the lake, one-eighth of a mile deep. The city's banks do an annual clearing house business of \$8,333,000,000. Enough grain is received annually in Chicago to fill a line of bushel baskets, set close together, reaching nearly four times around the world. Last year 2,053,000,000 feet of lumber came to the Chicago market, while pianos were manufactured in such number that had they been placed in line about every four blocks they would have encircled the globe. Chicago is rich in material for estimates like this, and the centennial will be the means of bringing Chicago's greatness and rapid growth to the world's attention.

Auction Sale of Relics.

The proposal that the three Columbian caravels in Jackson park be disposed of to the highest bidder has raised a storm of protest in Chicago, but so far as we know no poet has yet risen to immortalize himself over the situation. And the chance to do a poetical stunt of a lasting kind over these much-abused old Wood-son Sides is very good, especially at this time.

These replicas of Columbus' three famous ships, the Santa Maria, Nina and Pinta, are really very picturesque and greatly enhance the interest and attractiveness of the park. It is to be hoped that the park commissioners will repair them, leave them where they are, and take more care of them in future. Of the interesting features of the exposition which survived the disastrous fire that followed the great fair, those that remain in the park are all too few. The Fine Arts building used by the Field Columbian museum, the German building used as a refractory, the convent of La Rabida used for some commercial purpose, the little Japanese pagodas on the island and the three caravels rotting in the lagoon are about the only features that remain; yet they are all picturesque in spite of many signs of decay and without them the park would resemble any other ordinary reserve of lawns, shrubbery and ponds. The Ferris wheel remains in Chicago, but it stands inactive in a North side back garden, and is likely at any time to be torn to pieces for the iron and steel that is in it.

Not a few of the world's fair buildings were purchased by individuals and moved out of the city. For example, J. J. Mitchell purchased the Ceylon building, moved it to Lake Geneva and made himself a very odd, beautiful and costly summer home of it. The Norway building may be seen on C. K. G. Billings' Lake Geneva estate. Some one else purchased the Idaho building, but, although it may be seen at the Wisconsin resort, the visitor would have to wade in mud and water to his knees to get to it, for it stands in a slough, where it is abandoned by all save bats and other eerie creatures. But even there it will remain a unique and picturesque attraction, for its solid cedar beams will not soon rot.

A New Dignity.

The few really sultry days that have made their presence felt thus far this season have served to show that Chicago is by no means all hustle and no dignity. Several brokers at the board of trade lost money the other day because they appeared at the pit in their shirt sleeves. That is, they were reproached by the police officer of the board, and were compelled to waste many valuable minutes in running back to their offices for their coats. In some of Chicago's big offices any employe venturing to remove his coat would lose his job if he did not heed first warning. Other firms are more lenient and declare that only those employes who come in contact with the public need sweeter in coats on a hot day. But the members of one firm, themselves addicted to the shirt sleeves habit, declare that they think men look well dressed in their shirt sleeves and they encourage this negligence in summer, because they are then assured that their employes are not trying to cheat the laundymen by wearing soiled linen.

The agitation of the burning coat question in Chicago has brought out the fact that employes do not care to have beards raised at their expense. They drive away trade and it has been declared that employes must shave at least every other day. One employe says that all beards raised in his office should be tagged in some manner during their first stages so that callers will understand what is intended.

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LOYAL TO PROTECTION.

The Pennsylvania Convention Opposed Any General Revision of the Tariff.

Pennsylvania is a business state, a state of producers, a state of wage-earners, a state where republicans and foremost democrats have united for years in the advocacy of protection as an upbuilding principle. They could never get Samuel J. Randall, once the most prominent democrat in Pennsylvania, to jump into the free trade maelstrom. He knew that it was the current of protection that was turning the wheels of mills and filling the reservoirs of prosperity, says the Troy Times.

The republican state convention in Pennsylvania was loyal as ever to a protective tariff, and opposed any suggestion of a general revision of the present tariff law. The republicans of Pennsylvania, in their platform adopted, say of the law:

"Since its enactment we have conducted an expensive war with Spain and paid its cost. Within the last three years congress has reduced taxation to the amount of \$15,000,000 per annum, and yet the national treasury to-day is richer by \$7,000,000 than it was before the war began. We believe it to be the dictates of wisdom to let well enough alone, and not to imperil business interests by any suggestions of present interference with revenue legislation. Permanence and stability of tariff rates are essential to continued business prosperity."

Protection is a theory founded on facts. Free trade is a disturbance founded on theory. No theory can long

AS TO THE "IOWA IDEA."

How Senator Allison Proposes to Dispose of a Fictitious Issue.

It is given out that Senator Allison has undertaken to draw the platform at the coming Iowa convention, or at least that part of it which relates to the tariff. The purpose behind the selection is to frame a plank on which all republicans can stand. No man is better fitted for the task than Senator Allison. He is politic, wary and sagacious. He is past master in the art of composing differences and bringing settlements, says the Philadelphia Press.

The plan announced in connection with Senator Allison's leadership harmonizes with the part. When others were quarreling over what was called the "Iowa idea" last year he said that there was nothing in it to quarrel over; that the state platform which was the subject of so much dispute embraced nothing which was not contained in the St. Louis national platform of 1896 on which President McKinley was elected; and that thus disputants were making an issue where there was no issue.

As the natural sequence of this view he proposes that the contending sides in Iowa shall agree on the tariff plank of the St. Louis platform in form or in substance; that it shall be adopted at the Iowa convention this year, and that it shall be submit-

WANTED—A RUNNING MATE.



G. O. P.—Roosevelt is All Right; All I Want Now is a Running Mate Who Can Come Up to the Pace He Sets.—Minneapolis Journal.

exist which is not supported by results, and there never was a political theory propounded which has had more splendid indorsement in its effects in practical operation than the principle that the government should protect its own citizens and defend them against those who would close at the same time the markets and the mills.

WORKERS ARE PROSPEROUS.

Prosperity is General and Business is Booming Throughout the Country.

Statistics for April on commodity prices in proportion to consumption show that the cost of living during that month was lower than in March and lower than a year ago. This is most gratifying, in view of the fact that wages are higher than for many years past and employment more plentiful, says the Troy Times. Prosperity is general throughout the country, and business is enjoying a boom that has never been exceeded. In the west the farm crops are so large that the farmers are unable to obtain enough help to harvest the yield of the soil. The Kansas wheat crop will be the largest in the history of that state, and it is estimated that 20,000 extra farmhands will be needed to gather the crop and prepare it for shipment.

Such a condition is very encouraging to labor. Instead of the man looking for the job the job is looking for the man. This of course means better compensation. With good jobs, higher wages and food products lower one does not need to go far to seek the reason for increased savings bank deposits and generally improved conditions among the men and women who toil. It is a discouraging outlook for only one class of individuals, and that class consists of the discordant element known as "calamity howlers." They have been permanently and expeditiously put out of business. They will be on hand, however, when the next presidential campaign opens, but their bulging pocketbooks and air of prosperity will belie their words, and the shadows of the tall timbers will swallow them up in oblivion long ere the voters have indorsed at the polls the policies which have made possible the marvelous prosperity which the country is enjoying.

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ted to the national convention next year as the basis of general agreement. Gov. Cummins, who is the special champion of the so-called "Iowa idea," is said to have accepted this proposition; Senator Allison's own support carries the favor of the other side; and President Roosevelt is represented as having given his concurrence and approval.

All this is not only not improbable, but natural and reasonable. What is called the "Iowa idea" has been invested with a fictitious importance and significance. It has really been only the fulcrum of some personal and factional leverage. It has been the stalking horse of personal ambitions within the party, and its meaning has been more political than economic. Senator Allison is quite right in saying that there is nothing in it which was not in the national platform of 1896. All republicans accepted then without any question, and there is no reason why it should not be accepted now.

Democrats in More Trouble.

Here is more trouble for the democratic party. There are many indications that the populists of Kansas and other western states will support the republican ticket next year. As a matter of fact many of them have recently been voting for republican candidates. Nor is there anything surprising about this. It is certain that a large proportion of the populists came from the republican ranks. They were carried away temporarily by the free silver and other delusions, but they never were at heart in sympathy with the cardinal free trade principle of the democracy, or some of the new-fangled and ill-digested ideas of Mr. Bryan. Experience and wise republican administration has taught them the fallacy of the cheap money and other populist notions, and those of them formerly in sympathy with the republican party are returning to their first love. It is perfectly safe to say that thousands on thousands of voters in the west, who supported the democratic ticket in 1896 and 1900 will be found enthusiastically in line for the republican candidates and platform in 1904. And nothing Mr. Bryan or any other man can do will prevent this.—Troy Times.

Mr. Bryan has suggested for the democratic nominee in 1904 a Tennessee man and a North Carolina man. The southern states, which furnish the democratic votes, might well consider the propriety of taking the candidate from its own section. While the result would not be changed, the experiment would be politically interesting.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

HAPPENINGS IN NEW YORK

Owen Langdon's Budget of Gossip from Breezy Gotham.

Odd Cases in the Criminal Courts—Walter Vrooman Again Before the Public—The Rise of Young Men.

New York.—A case as marvelous as that of Victor Hugo's "Jean Valjean" is that of Moody Merrill, "wanted" on a criminal charge. Mr. Merrill was a business man of ability who cut a wide swath in Boston from 1873 to 1893; he ran the best street car line, the only one to use two-story cars after the English fashion; he engineered the first consolidation of traction interests; he was prominent in politics and ran for mayor on the republican ticket. But "undigested securities" got him; he was deep in Bay State gas, then being manipulated by Addicks; he became loaded down with suburban land and entangled in a water meter company, and in the end he fled from the city, was declared bankrupt and indictments were found against him for defrauding certain customers. For ten years the indictments have slept.

The strangest of Merrill's career really began with his ruin. He went to New Mexico and was for a time highly successful in mining, but upon going into politics he ran up against men who learned his secret and compelled him to retire from that field. Some of his Boston acquaintances got wind of his living in the southwest as "Col. Charles J. Grayson" and looked him up. As fast as he could do so he paid off his old debts, and arranged to pay the rest.

"Grayson" often went to Washington upon territorial business. Of late years his impressive, intellectual face, crowned with venerable gray hair, has been in New York a familiar spectacle. There must have been a hundred men who knew his secret, but with all of them it was safe. It was left for a police detective—a Javert—to trail him down by following his wife and to arrest him.

There is little reason to doubt that Merrill was doing his best to "square himself." His friends say that the deplorable mix in his affairs in Boston was due to confusion, bad book-keeping and lax of business methods, not to actual dishonesty.

The Woes of "Polley" Adams.

You cannot fool women that way in social matters, as Mrs. Armit, of Newport, New York, and Mexico is finding out. Mrs. Armit is a woman of fine character and appearance. It is her misfortune to be the daughter of "Al" Adams, the policy man, who has made \$4,000,000 by taking the pennies of the very poor by a "skin game" which pretended to be gambling and was merely theft.

Adams' sons are rich and personally estimable. Two of them went to Harvard college. They are members of the Harvard club in New York, a privilege open to practically any graduate, but that is the extent of their social honors. They are ostracized.

The case of the daughter is pathetic. She married a manly young mining engineer who, by fortunate investments in Mexico, increased considerably the fortune she was able to bring him. In Newport she became prominent as an entertainer and member of fashionable society. That was last year.

During the winter came the conviction of Adams, and the broken old reprobate who has caused so many suicides, who had driven so many poor young fools into crime, who had so long bought off the police, at last smoked out by an honest district attorney, went to prison as he richly deserved. And now the Newport career of his daughter is ended, rather unjustly, it would seem, but not unnaturally. There is a curse upon ill-gotten wealth, even in innocent hands.

"Cleveland's Farmer."

Walter Vrooman has been in so many queer scrapes that people are by way of forgetting his first appearance in the limelight of publicity, though his name was then coupled with that of an ex-president. Shortly after Mr. Cleveland's retirement to Princeton and his purchase of a farm at some distance from his home he was approached by a handsome young man of magnetic personality, who sought to interest him in a benevolent scheme. He wished to make use of "Cleveland's Farm" as

the basis of a social experiment; he wanted to show how the outcast of society could be raised up and made self-supporting upon the land, and he rightly judged that if this could be done upon the land of a president the success of the experiment would attract more attention and emulation. Mr. Cleveland good-naturedly consented, and the ardent disciple of Ruskin and forerunner of the Salvation Army farms began work; but he proved to be visionary and impracticable, though well-meaning, and Mr. Cleveland was forced to resume control of his land.

In early life Vrooman had been noted in St. Louis as a "boy orator" in political campaigns, and he had no lack of the persuasive art. He was next heard of in Oxford, England, where he founded a students' Ruskin society, and preached reform of social conditions. Returning to this country, he took in a Maryland campaign against Senator Gorman, and by his eloquence won a wealthy bride. He then founded the People's Trust, the Western Cooperative company, and other utopian schemes, and his wife is suing him for divorce.

In a newspaper office a distinction is made between people who are good to "lay ideas" and those skilled in hatching them. Vrooman should be a professional "sugester." He hasn't the gift of making his dreams "come true," but he certainly has indulged at others' expense in glorious dreaming.

Were Reporters Together.

When Frank Vanderlip and Edward W. Harden were reporters on the Chicago Tribune they made an agreement that the first one to get married was to have a free wedding trip to Europe at the expense of the other.

Harden pays the bill. And he will soon have to put up the money for a similar trip, as his own engagement to Mr. Vanderlip's sister, Ruth Vanderlip, is now announced.

The rise of these young men to prominence is a happy augury for others of ability. When Lyman Gage came from Chicago to be secretary of the treasury, he looked about for a man of ability and literary gift, and finally selected Mr. Vanderlip to accompany him; so Mr. Vanderlip became assistant secretary. As happens to so many bright young men who make reputations in political offices, he was snapped up by the men of money and made vice president of the great Standard Oil national bank in New York. Vanderlip's articles in Scribner's Magazine on the American Invasion of Europe showed his newspaper training; they were finely written, and were of world-wide importance because of his former official situation and his present financial standing.

Mr. Harden was about the same time financial editor of the Chicago Tribune. When the war broke out he was sent to Manila with Dewey's fleet. He arranged to represent the New York World with the Tribune, and when the dispatch boat returned to Hong-Kong, the World was able by means of Mr. Harden's brief cablegram to give the waiting world the first news. It was the most famous "beat" since de Blowitz sent the London Times the text of the Berlin treaty in 1878.

Mr. Hardin's return to this country was followed by his drafting into financial work, for which his training had fitted him; and I guess he can afford two wedding trips about as well as most men of his years.

Newspaper Men in Finance.

The old idea of newspaper men as bohemians, with hazy notions about paying their wa's herwoman's bills as disappearing with the development of journalism as a business. The number of journalists who win success in finance and affairs seems to show that the writers have their w a t e r eyes peeled as well as men of other professions. Aside from writers who have made great fortunes through their own profession, such as Mr. Bennett and Mr. Pulitzer, newspaper men have shone in other lines. Carl Schurz was an editor in St. Louis; Henry Villard was a New York reporter before he became a railroad president; H. M. Stanley was a reporter; Daniel Manning was an editor of a small paper in Albany; Daniel Lamont, Mr. Cleveland's close-mouthed private secretary, is now a railroad president, and was a Sun reporter; so was Joseph C. Hendrix, president of the great National Bank of Commerce, which is soon to be the nucleus of the largest national bank in the country. Justice Gaynor, one of the ablest men on the bench in this state was a Brooklyn reporter. And if an example in British life, where conditions are very different, may be added, Lord Salisbury was in early life a newspaper man, and made his living by his profession, too, when his family was estranged by his marriage for love with a young lady other than their choice.

These are things the boys should remember when their space slips run small and they feel blue and discouraged.

OWEN LANGDON.



Honore Palmer.



"What! Tear, You Sacred Ensign Down?"



The Gilded Palaces Must Go.



"Where is Your Coat, Sir?"



The Indians to Invade Chicago.



Moody Merrill.



Frank A. Vanderlip.



Mrs. Armit.



Carl Schurz.



Walter Vrooman.