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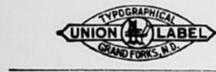
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Sentiment to be Inculcated. Let reverence of law be breathed by every mother to the hearing babe that practices in her lap...

AN ELASTIC FRANCHISE.

A prominent business man in this city in speaking of the agitation of a street car line that will be commensurate with the importance of the city, and equal to the demands of the public, stated that it would be an easy matter to secure one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of building the line...

In this connection it is well to ascertain the equitable grounds which these quasi-public utilities should occupy so that as an investment the promoters shall have their rights preserved, and at the same time the public may not be robbed or its property may not be taken without just compensation.

It must be admitted by every candid person that what are known as public utilities are imperative in this progressive age. Without the modern street car, business in the cities would be helpless, and travel impossible.

It is impossible in the very nature of things, to have these advantages without concessions from the public. A street car line which did not use the streets of the city would be about as valuable as a ship anchored in the midst of the Sahara desert.

Inasmuch then as these things are absolutely necessary in the present age, the proper thing to do is to lay aside the ranting of extremists on either side and seek a solution of the matter on a common where neither party will have the advantage.

It is as foolish to seek to keep these institutions from obtaining charters as it is to grant them on terms which means robbery to the public.

Just what this common ground is has so far not been determined because both sides have been extremists. So far as the public is concerned it will always be required to pay for the service rendered if the franchises are taxed the taxation will simply be added to the cost to the public and be paid by it.

That this is not only possible but practical is clear. While the uncertainties of a future business is an unknown element, life insurance companies have demonstrated that by comparison with the history of the past a safe business foundation can be established. The same bases of calculation in the case of a street car line, for instance, can be determined based upon the amount of traffic probable in a given population and the cost of operating the necessary system to accommodate the same.

Reasoning from these it would be an easy matter to form an elastic franchise which in the charges it could make to the public would be determined by its probable income. This charge could be so fixed that it would be reasonable to both the public and the owner.

In this way a franchise which is in favor of the public at the time of its granting would not become burdensome later in its experience. At the same time there would be no unreasonable uncertainty about the investment of capital.

A franchise so constructed that it would hold the same relation to the public under any condition could be made almost without limitation, so far as time is concerned.

This is one reason why capital today is fighting shy of investments depending upon franchises, or if it is seeking such investments is exacting such tribute that it savors very much of robbery.

The life of the franchise is limited and once the investments are made there is no assurance that the right

to operate the business will not be taken away at the end of the term and the capital become a dead loss. Men are making investments not for the present alone, but for the future, and security is the strong point. When this is taken away the matter becomes a pure speculation and unless there is an opportunity for unreasonable remuneration during the time the business is assured, there will be no investment.

With the equitable ground open for occupancy in this city, there would be, according to the gentleman mentioned, a street car line such as the public needs within a comparatively short time.

AN ENLARGED RURAL DELIVERY.

Congressman Gronna is a strong advocate of the rural free delivery system, and is one of the most ardent advocates of the extension and improvement of the system.

No branch of the government service has come nearer to the rural population than the rural free delivery, nor has anything done more to bring the farmers in touch with the progress of the world, and given them the position as leaders in all things that appertain to the progress of the nation, which is theirs by right.

When the farmer depended upon the chance opportunity of getting mail from the postoffice several miles away, possibly once in a fortnight, he lacked the intellectual enterprise which comes from contact with other men.

He had little interest in matters of public concern because he knew but little of them. The world is moved by the concentration of thought upon a certain line. This can only come through the medium of the press.

Before rural delivery was inaugurated the farmer was compelled to rely upon the weekly paper, and this was often poorly edited and much condensed.

The man who had access to the daily press was in a position to have advanced ideas on matters of public interest, and because of this he became a leader, not because of ability but of opportunity. Thus came in a large measure the commercial advantage over the agricultural, the most pronounced of which is that of trade and prices. The agriculturalist for years had had no voice in either the price he pays or the one he received.

When the mail was brought to the farmer's door every day he began reading the daily paper and in the long evening by his comfortable fire he read and studied.

While his city brother was content with a glance at the headlines, the farmer read and pondered every line. Naturally a student and observer and required to think for himself, he became the leader instead of the follower.

Not many generations ago the fact that a man who had surpassed his fellows in the race of life had come from the rural population was in itself enough to make him a remarkable man. Now so many of them are coming to the front that they fail to attract even a passing notice.

Much of this can be credited to the rural delivery system, because through it the opportunities necessary to make the change were made possible. What is necessary now is the extension of the system. Every community having a reasonable number of patrons available to a route should be supplied in this way, and the system should be so enlarged that in all the thickly settled portions of the country, the mail would be delivered daily to every residence.

It has been argued that the expenses of such a plan would make a deficit in the postal department. Probably this is true. But it should be borne in mind that the treasury department is the only one of the many divisions of the government which does not show a larger expense than income.

Just why there should be a demand that the postal department should be made to pay when the people are taxed to maintain the others has not been explained.

It is the only one which comes approximately near to the people and serves their daily needs. It would well to take some of the funds from other sources to make good the deficit if necessary.

But let the rural population have the best mail service they can get, no matter what the cost.

But your hook with flattery if you would catch silly women.

INSPECTING GASOLINE.

Official inspection of the oil tanks at Glyndon in Minnesota, where three persons lost their lives a few days ago because of a gasoline explosion, shows that the heat combustion was eighty-four degrees, whereas the safety point, and the point required by the Minnesota law, is one hundred twenty-one degrees.

Not long since a young girl was nearly burned to death at Devils Lake in this state by the explosion of stove polish with which she was polishing a stove, and which was mixed with gasoline. The accident happened in the family of a physician where the danger of gasoline under such conditions was thoroughly understood, and had there been anything on the product sold to have indicated its dangerous character it would not have been used.

There is always a crowd of political mountebanks ready to pounce upon the creation of a new office as a means of graft, and attempt to show that they are created for political purposes—the creation of places to reward henchmen.

However, there is certainly need of more inspectors of oils and explosives so much used in everyday life.

Gasoline is now almost a household necessity. It is used in thousands of homes. It is handled largely by women, and these with the children are by the nature of the situation exposed to its dangers.

It is well known that with ordinary precaution, gasoline of the proper fineness is perfectly safe. The danger comes when it is low grade, as was the case of that sold at Glyndon, or when it is sold in a hidden form, as was true in the case at Devils Lake.

It would be the part of wisdom to so increase the number of inspectors of oils and so control its sale that not a particle could be sold to the consumer which had not been thoroughly tested and found to be safe.

This would make its use perfectly safe, and would avoid the sickening accidents which so frequently cause the public to shudder at the horrible results.

If the states do not take a strong position on the question of regulating and inspecting gasoline, and absolutely prevent its sale in hidden and dangerous forms, the death rate from gasoline explosions must increase in proportion to the increase of its use.

ROOSEVELT SEES THE DANGER.

Well may President Roosevelt challenge the course of the "Man With the Muck Rake," that pestilent creature who makes his living by defaming other people. In recent months the practice of defamation of individual character through the medium of the public prints has assumed a phase which threatens and in reality is calculated to destroy the republic itself.

The president realized the danger and on Saturday last, speaking at a corner store lying in Washington, he interposed the weight of his great influence and denounced in apt and devoted terms the professional writer of sensational and the avaricious and soulless publishers who give currency to this class of alleged literature. It was a timely delivery and the great majority of the people will thank him for it.

The president's speech was published in these columns Saturday and the pertinent points from it are reproduced today. It will be accepted as notice to the muck rake brigade that the decent element in the country's population does not approve of the violent methods of some of the so-called "reformers," who persist in pouring out a devastating flood of scurrilous misrepresentation and unfounded abuse as the vomiting Vesuvius pours out its deadly lava. For many years that kind of material found a welcome place only in the Police Gazette, which succeeded in being recognized as a sort of journalistic sewer. In these days of hysteria a few magazines have deliberately abandoned the field of fair and decent criticism and are putting even the old Police Gazette to the blush in their dissemination of scurrilous literature.

Unfortunately the infection has spread to many newspaper offices where the vilest accusations against public men are reproduced in furtherance of the plans of political campaign managers, without regard to truth and in defiance of every requirement of justice.

If the writers and the publishers of those debilitating effusions are not wholly devoid of shame a careful reading of the president's address may cause them to pause and reflect.

THE BOSS DISPLEASED.

The Herald, in a weak attempt to stem the tide now setting in against the promiscuous and wholesale denunciation to be found in the scurrilous magazines and the sensational sheets whose editors would turn "an honest penny" by discrediting honest men, thought it would overcome the effect of the president's speech on "The Man With the Muck Rake" before the speech was delivered. The Herald's effort was a failure, of course. Referring to an article in the Chicago Tri-

RESPONSIBLE TACTICS BY THE MUCKRAKE'S GANG ORGAN.

For wilful misrepresentation and dirty politics the following editorial in Sunday's Grand Forks Herald is probably the most mendacious in the history of modern yellow journalism: Senator Hansbrough fears that if an amendment to the State Grain Stricter result will be disastrous to such organizations, which have been so popular in the northwest for some time, in some of our newspapers there is an impression that several people who were in the habit of attending these conventions paid their fares in this is true, and it passes to these gatherings to be used in a manner which is not only false, but it does not appear that there is much difference between the past and the present. The same principle as applied to the convention of druggists or implement men, if the subject were investigated it would probably develop that the farmers who attend the convention are the ones who pay their fare, while the "farmers" who live in the cities and whom free transportation is issued, should seek to protect the interests of the latter for he has need of them in his business.

The Herald must certainly have got its information for the above malicious misstatements of facts from the Congressional Record. The facts are as follows, which Mr. E. C. Snyder, The Evening Times' Washington correspondent, sends to this paper, giving Senator Hansbrough's remarks, taken verbatim from the Congressional Record: Washington, April 14.—During the debate in the senate on the railroad bill an interesting colloquy took place between Senator Foraker, who placed the floor, and Senator Hansbrough regarding the amendment which the former has introduced to the bill relative to railroad passes. Mr. Foraker's proposed amendment is very drastic in character; it prohibits railroads from issuing free transportation in any form whatsoever, the only exception being made in favor of the actual employees of a railroad. As originally drawn it prohibited the interchange of passes between railroads for transportation of employees. This has been amended so that one railroad may extend courtesies to the employees of another road. The prohibition of free transportation in any form whatsoever will, if adopted, be of considerable interest to the farmers of North Dakota who, in years past, have enjoyed an annual free excursion to the State Agricultural college located at Fargo, being generously entertained, not only by the railroads, but by the citizens of Fargo. Senator Hansbrough, having gained the permission of Senator Foraker to interrupt him to ask a few questions regarding the scope of his proposed "pass" amendment, said: "I have examined the amendment offered by the senator from Ohio, and have no hesitation in saying that I think it is a very proper amendment. I do not know how far it goes, but the practice prevails in other states, but in the state of North Dakota it is not. I have invited to join in the excursion at a given point, where they are taken to the agricultural college, where they are entertained by the citizens of Fargo, a city of twelve or fifteen thousand inhabitants, and after two or three days there they are returned by the railroad companies without any cost to them. Now I ask the senator if he thinks his amendment would cover that case. I do not care to vote for an amendment that would deprive the farmers of any state of the privilege they are enjoying in this. Mr. Foraker: The inquiry addressed to me by the senator from North Dakota only illustrates the danger of dealing with this general proposition. I do not think the amendment, as I have framed it, and as I have offered it, would allow free passes to be given or returned, and I have referred to the people to whom he refers. As I understand, the people to whom he refers are farmers, and they are transported free of cost by the railroads to the agricultural college of the state, where they receive the benefit of education for a limited term—a week or such matter. Mr. Hansbrough: They are entertained by the citizens of Fargo, where the college is located. Mr. Foraker: The exceptions, according to the amendment as I now have offered it—and I shall amend it—where there may be a reprint of the amendment as I have changed it—are as follows: "Provided, That nothing herein shall prevent the free carriage of destitute or indigent persons, or the issuance of mileage or extra passes to druggists, or prevent such carriers from giving free reduced transportation to ministers of religion, or to the inmates of hospitals, eleemosynary and charitable institutions, or to prevent any such carrier from giving free transportation to any of its officers, agents, employees, attorney stockholders, or directors, or to the families of its employees. "And that these people, according to the statement of the senator from North Dakota, are transported as an exception to the rule, and that they would be authorized to sell transportation to them at a nominal price. They could not give the law, they could not make it absolutely free; but they could make it a rate, no matter how low it might be, a nominal rate. I think the amendment in order to include the class that is as liberal as I can make it, though I would be glad to make it more liberal in order to include the class that is from North Dakota mentions."

Just to what degree the president has taken the correspondent into his confidence remains to be seen. We will see what sort of speech he makes when it is made. In the meantime we may expect to see liberal extracts from the Tribune article published all over the country in papers published in the interest of men whose transactions, business and political, have been a little shady, and who have for some time been exceedingly uncomfortable in the strong light which has been turned on them.

By whom were the transactions of certain men alleged to be a "little shady?" By the muck rake brigade, of which the Herald is a member. It is clear that the Herald had made up its mind in advance that it wouldn't like the president's speech. No muck rake man will like it. The president didn't intend they should like it.

Sunday's Herald was certainly a fine illustration of what "the man with the muck rake" can accomplish when he gets busy. Defamation of character, libel and gross misrepresentation teem throughout its editorial page, while the vilest kind of mud slinging is reproduced in its "Voice of the State Press" department. Mad with jealousy at the success of its competitor, The Evening Times, and seeing inevitable

logs of offering an amendment to it which will include the class of cases to which I referred. It will be seen by the above correct record that the Herald wilfully distorted the facts in order to create a prejudice against a man whom Boss Winship hates.

This is a fair sample of the campaign of vilification, misrepresentation and character assassination now being conducted by the muck-rake brigade, better known locally as "The Good Government League of North Dakota." A newspaper with the faintest spark of fairness in its make-up would connect such a vile slander as ranked kind of a personal organ, run wholly in the political interests of Boss Winship.

Uncle Tom's Cabin. One of the stage stars that will ever remain strong and true to the theater-goers is "Uncle Tom's Cabin," a sumptuous production of which, under the able management of Mr. Washburn, will be given at the Metropolitan on Tuesday evening when everyone who has the opportunity of witnessing this perennial favorite will acclaim it as one of the best presented by any company. Time, effort and expense have not been spared in its staging or selection of cast, and the minutest detail has been carefully considered. There is no story of book or stage that so delighted the juvenile mind and it is to be hoped that every boy and girl may have their wish to see it gratified.

Al. G. Field's Minstrels. The Quaker City Quartette, which has proven an attractive feature for a number of years with the Al. G. Field Greater Minstrels, has been re-engaged for this season and will be heard in a new repertoire of songs on Thursday, April 19. Reese Prosser, the noted Welsh tenor, commonly called "The Jean De Reske of the minstrel stage," will again be featured with the Field aggregation and all the vocal features will be under the direction of Paul LaLonde.

Vaudeville. It is worth everyone's while to remember that the Metropolitan management open their vaudeville season on Wednesday, April 18, with two performances. The program is certainly a monster and appeals to every class of theater-goer, giving, as it does, a chance for tears, for laughter and amazement. One of the features with modern vaudeville is moving pictures and everyone may rest assured that this part of the program will not be neglected.

Misunderstood. A young man was taking leave of his sweetheart and as they stood on the piazza, his voice rose passionately in the still air. "Just one," he pleaded; "just one." Just then the voice of the girl's mother came from the window above: "Just one? No, it ain't quite that, but it's close on to 12, and I think you'd better be going just the same."

A Practical Joke. John Phillip Sousa is an inveterate wag, as his close friends know, and a tale is going the rounds which reveals in a characteristic manner the great composer-conductor's love of a good joke on his fellows. At a brilliant soiree given for Sousa by the lord mayor of Liverpool, the talk turned on the national airs of all countries, and someone recalled that Sousa had compiled the best existing collection of such airs. "What is the Japanese national anthem, Mr. Sousa?" inquired one of the ladies present. "I would play it for you on the piano," said Sousa, "if there were someone here who could sing the vocal part." An amateur tenor vol-

political defeat for his gang in the coming primaries, Pharasalac George in his frenzy is showing the scarlet magazines and yellow journals that he is entitled to the captaincy of the muck rake brigade.

The last venture of that veteran journalist, Marshall McClure, Sr., the Sunday Eagle made its initial bow to the public yesterday morning. The versatile editor seems to have lost none of his old-time brilliancy, and the three pages of solid reading matter bristles with his crisp English and clear-cut logic. It is no fulsome flattery to say the first number of the Sunday Eagle was a newspaper genius.

The man whose selfishness carries him to object to every new enterprise that is launched in his city will kill the spirit of enterprise as surely as an epidemic of smallpox will depopulate the Latin quarter in New Orleans.

It is estimated that at least ninety per cent of the farmers of this state own their own land. This is the great reason why the state is forging so rapidly to the front. Nine of every ten farmers are working for themselves.

E. J. LANDER & CO. The Big Real Estate Store. THE GRAND FORKS BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION. You know what it is. An institution which helps renters to own their home. Nothing new. Established right here in your midst 20 years ago. You know its officers and directors. Every borrower is a member. Square, honest, upright dealing. Full particulars at our office. \$2200—Seven room modern home on University avenue; 50 foot lot; basement with hot air furnace. INSURANCE, LOWEST RATES. ABSTRACTS, PROMPT AND GUARANTEED SERVICE. \$400—For a 50 foot corner lot on Cottonwood street. Easy terms. \$300—For a 50 foot lot on International avenue, quite close in. \$3300—A modern home on South Fourth street; full basement with furnace. \$6000—A beautiful modern home on Reeves avenue; 10 rooms; 75x140 foot lot. If you want something good this is it. A \$1200 home for \$3,000 on reasonable terms. Come in and we will show it to you.

unentered, and as he made his way to where Sousa sat, the latter leaned over and whispered something to the lord mayor and the lady mayoress which seemed literally to convulse them with laughter. Sousa wrote the words of the text on a piece of paper and explained aloud that the tune of the Japanese anthem was the same as that of the English, "God Save the King," and that all the singer had to do was to sing that melody and pronounce the Japanese words precisely as they were spelled. Accordingly, up rose the willing garbler, and burst out with the following lyric: "O wa ta na syam, An a sy-a-a-am." He was only stopped by roars of delighted laughter, led by that of the lord mayor, for, of course, the luckless tenor had been singing: "Oh, what an ass I am."

Rather Ambiguous. A gentleman who is much interested in the raising of hogs is said to have received a letter a while ago which reads so many ways that he does not

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Gridiron Club. It is a jumble of melody and mirth with a touch of the sublime and much of the ridiculous. A passing glance of famous places and faces in the political life of the day. A fusillade of fun sandwiched with satirical stabs at men and measures. Biggest Offering of Minstrelcy. The limit of modern stage productions. Rich in scenic costuming and electrical effects. Matinee and Night Wednesday, 18th April... Nash's Vaudevillians. Including Mr. and Mrs. Danny Mann, The Great Paul Huntress, Joseph Haino, Figaro and others. Prices: Matinee 10c 25c and 35c. Night, 25c, 35c, and 50c. Boxes and lodges, 75c.

HOTEL DACOTAH. The Finest in the Northwest—Rates \$2.00 to \$4.00 Per Day, Grand Forks, North Dakota. An illustration of the hotel building.