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THE HUMORIST IN POLITICS.

The daily prints inform us that Mark Twain has lost a manner of thirty or forty dollars through failure of a health food company in which he had invested. Mr. Twain is representive as airily waving his hand and refusing to discuss the rumor to any extent, simply saying in an absent minded way that he believes he did drop a few bushels of money in the transaction. Then, lightiug another cigar, he fills up his fountain pen and resumes work on some more humor.

That is what we want in the commercial world. More Mark Twains would help a lot. Let the humorists of this country bring out the fabulous sums they are hoarding and throw them into the breach, if there be one. Some eminent financiers say there is no breach, others assure us there is a hole big enough to drive a cow through.

The trouble is that when the ordinary nonhumorous man puts his money in anything and loses it he emits a yelp that can be heard for ten miles on a noisy afternoon. He has receivers appointed, and gets referees and juries and courts and administrators and things and upsets the equillbrium of affairs. A humorist simply smiles that there is plenty more where that came from and turns out another batch of stuff.

Would Tom Lawson have acted as Twain has? Lawson is sometimes called a humorist—at least a joke—but two days after he had stung for that much money he would have had 500,000 magazines on the news stands clamoring for the blood of the bee that stung him.

Let the humorist of this country dig up. If Secretary Cortelyon could realize that a brigade of humorists in good working order can make an issue of canal bonds look like a petition to send a blind man home to his friends he would give them desks on the sunny side of the treasury building.

Says Judge Ives, in his Cass Lake Times: "1908 is a Leap year and it is high time for all eligible girls to screw up their courage and fortifiy themselves for the greatest event of their lives. It is not generally known but it is a fact nevertheless that girls during leap year have an advantage that the other sex does not possess in other years—that if a girl finds a fellow who suits her she makes the courageous proposal the fellow must submit or be called a poltroon by his pals. So you should be careful in selecting and have some good reasons to believe that the one selected is your affinity. If you find the fellow backward and wary treat him with consideration, but don't let the year of grace run out before you have him securely "cinched."

ACCEPT SLIGHT CUTS.

Some New York Striking Tenants Ignore Leaders.

New York, Dec. 31.—Leaders of the East Side tenants who are agitating for a reduction of rents announced that landlords of two apartment houses have accepted reductions of $1 to $1.50 per month. In one case the rent had been $18 to $23 a month and in the other $16 to $19. The leaders opposed settlement on this basis and urged insistence on a 20 per cent reduction, but the tenants ignored them and paid their rent for January, securing also an agreement that rents will not be advanced for six months.

Jacob Frank, one of the leaders of the striking tenants, said that an investigation shows that 75,000 workers are idle below Fourteenth street. Of this number 40,000 are said to be cloakmakers and the others cap and shirtmakers, paperhangers, painters, carpenters and bricklayers.

COME CREEPING INTO PORT

Fleet of Transatlantic Liners Delayed by Storms at Sea.

New York, Dec. 31.—A fleet of seven transatlantic steamships—the Campania, Cedric, St. Louis, Pannonia, Pretoria, Caronia and Minneapolis—came creeping into port bearing scars of battering seas, which held the liners back and delayed them a day in their trip across the Atlantic.

On Christmas day the storm was so heavy that only a dozen of the cabin passengers of the St. Louis went to the dining room for dinner. None of the steamers were seriously damaged, though at one time the officers of the Pretoria used oil to calm the turbulent seas.

RELEASED BY COURT

Fifty Defendants in Alleged Coal Land Frauds in Colorado.

KNOCKS OUT WORK OF JURY

Same Judge Recently Dismissed Indictments Charging Timber Frauds. Government Will Take Case to Court of Appeals.

Denver, Dec. 31.—Judge R. E. Lewis of the federal court has quashed all indictments and sustained all the demurrers in coal land fraud cases there by releasing about fifty prominent defendants from prosecution. Among the defendants who escape prosecution are S. W. Keltel and fourteen others of St. Louis, comprising the Yampa Coal company; Charles E. Hurr, Durango, Colo.; Robert Forrester, Salt Lake City; Benjamin F. Freeman, Durango, and George Coe Franklin, Durango.

Recently Judge Lewis quashed the indictments for alleged timber frauds and his latest action brings to naught the work of the special grand jury called last May.

The government attorneys gave notice that they will take the cases to the United States court of appeals.

LOCATED IN SAN FRANCISCO

Eloping Rector and Young Heiress Now Have a Child.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—The Call publishes an interview with Rev. Jere Knode Cooke, formerly pastor of St. George's church at Hempstead, L. I., who, it is alleged, left his wife some eight months ago, eloping with a seventeen-year-old heiress named Floretta Whaley. The couple have been located, it is said, at a flat at 1199 Green street in this city, while a search has been going on for them all over the country. A child has been born to them during the interval. The rector worked as a painter and decorator and also did the hardest kind of manual labor for the support of himself, his companion and the child. He had, it is said, lived quietly in Los Angeles before coming here after he left the East.

Inquiry at the flat occupied by Cooke and Miss Whaley revealed the fact that the couple had fled with their child.

The couple seem to have been identified beyond all question as Rev. Cooke and Floretta Whaley, although they were living under the name of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Balcom.

RESUMING USUAL TINT.

Sunday in New York Not as "Blue" as Recent Ones.

New York, Dec. 31.—New York's Sundays are beginning to resume their usual tint after three more or less "blue" Sabbaths. Scores of proprietors of moving picture shows, who had gone to the trouble to secure injunctions against the police, conducted their places of business much as usual, except for the fact that barkers were removed from the sidewalk. All of the vaudeville theaters were open, although the bills presented had been considerably changed in order to bring them under a somewhat strained interpretation of the ruling allowing "sacred or educational" entertainments. There were great crowds at the concerts at the two opera houses and the up town cafes and restaurants were better patronized than on the previous two Sundays.

HEAVY QUAKE REGISTERED

Weather Bureau Instruments Record Disturbance.

Washington, Dec. 31.—A very heavy earthquake was recorded on the instruments at the coast and geodetic survey observatory at Cheltenham, Md. It commenced at 32 minutes 30 seconds past midnight and lasted two hours. The weather bureau issued the following bulletin:

"A distant earthquake of considerable intensity was recorded by the seismographs at the weather bureau, commencing at 12:33 a. m. and lasting for over one hour. The first preliminary tremors continued for four minutes and fifty-five seconds and the strongest motion occurred at 12:45 a. m."

WOULD EXCUSE OTHERS.

Two Companies of Troops Sufficient for Goldfield.

Goldfield, Nev., Dec. 31.—Acting on the suggestion of prominent citizens here Captain Cox, who is representing Governor Sparks here, advised the governor that two full companies of federal troops would be ample for the situation and advised that he excuse the remainder now here from further service in Nevada. Temporary barracks will be erected for those who remain.

Engineer Ground to Pieces.

St. Paul, Dec. 31.—William Altier, locomotive engineer, was instantly killed by being pinned under his engine following a collision in the yards of the Northern Pacific. His fireman, William Benton, was badly scalded and was removed to Luther hospital. Altier was taking his engine light through the yards when it was struck a glancing blow by another engine. Altier's locomotive was overturned and he was ground to pieces under it.

"KANSAS FOR CHRIST."

Slogan to Be Used in a Great Evangelistic Campaign.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 31.—"Kansas for Christ" is to be the slogan in a state-wide evangelistic campaign that is to be pushed simultaneously in every county of the Sunflower state next year. Hundreds of ministers from various denominations together with numerous well known evangelists are to hold revivals. An entire year will be spent in the movement and an effort is to be made to demonstrate to the whole country what may be accomplished in concerted religious work carried forward on strictly business lines. The great revival is to be under the direct leadership of Rev. William Edward Biederwolf, who planned it.

The undertaking will be subject to the general supervision of a board of two ministers and two laymen from each denomination. This body, which has already been organized with fifteen denominations represented, has selected Edward E. Taylor of Philadelphia to act as secretary.

WORK ON PANAMA CANAL.

Some Idea of the Magnitude of the Task to Be Done.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The engineers on the Panama canal are dealing in vast figures these days and the Canal Record just received conveys in a graphic manner an idea of the magnitude of the work to be done upon the locks of the canal. It is stated, for instance, that the amount of concrete to be used in building these locks would suffice to construct eight-room city houses of the generous size of thirty by thirty feet with two stories and basement and with concrete floors and with concrete roofs to the number of 22,842. Allowing each of the houses a 75-foot lot, they would make a continuous street from New York to Philadelphia, with enough houses left over to make a row on one side of the street from Philadelphia to Washington. The houses would furnish suburban homes for 120,000 people or, according to city standards, would house a population equal to that of the city of Minneapolis.

LID FOR COLORADO.

Gambling Houses in Denver Closed and Prize Fights Will Stop.

Denver, Dec. 31.—Gambling houses, which have been openly conducted in Denver for several years, were closed on orders from Mayor Speer following the publication of an open letter to all district attorneys calling upon them to enforce the laws and announcing that if they failed in their duty the attorney general would act in their stead.

The midnight and Sunday saloon closing laws, it is announced, will also be enforced and prize fighting stopped in Colorado.

Application for a Receiver.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 31.—An application for a receiver for the Passaic Steel company was made in the United States circuit court here and argument is being heard to show cause why the receiver should not be appointed.

BRIEF BITS OF NEWS.

Dr. William E. Hamilton, aged ninety-two, ex-mayor of Peoria, Ill., is dead.

Dr. Hinzpeter, Emperor William's first teacher, is dead at Bielefeld, Prussia.

New Orleans experienced the driest Sunday in several years, due to rigid enforcement of the Sunday closing law.

Arthur G. Stanwood, assistant treasurer of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad system, is dead at Boston.

The Douglass county (Neb.) district court has upheld the Omaha "blue laws" as being entirely constitutional and in future the Sunday closing law will be enforced strictly.

More than 1,000 men were made happy at Pottsville, Pa., when work was resumed at the plant of the Eastern Steel company here. The plant will run five days a week.

The factories of the F. H. Hoyt company, manufacturers of shoes in East Manchester, N. H., which have been closed down for several weeks, have resumed operations.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Minneapolis Wheat.

Minneapolis, Dec. 30.—Wheat—May, $1.11¼; July, $1.11¾@1.11⅞. On track—No. 1 hard, $1.10⅝@1.10⅞; No. 1 Northern, $1.08⅜@1.08⅞; No. 2 Northern, $1.06⅜@1.06⅞; No. 3 Northern, $1.03⅜@1.03⅞.

St. Paul Union Stock Yards.

St. Paul, Dec. 30.—Cattle—Good to choice steers, $5.00@5.75; fair to good, $3.25@4.75; good to choice cows and heifers, $3.00@3.75; veals, $3.75@5.75. Hogs—$4.40@4.60. Sheep—Wethers, $4.25@4.60; good to choice lambs, $6.00@6.35.

Duluth Wheat and Flax.

Duluth, Dec. 30.—Wheat—To arrive and on track—No. 1 hard, $1.09¼; No. 1 Northern, $1.07⅝; No. 2 Northern, $1.05⅛; Dec., $1.06⅝; May, $1.12¼; July, $1.12⅞. In store—No. 1 Northern, $1.06⅝; No. 2 Northern, $1.04⅛. Flax—To arrive and on track, $1.14½; Dec., $1.14½; May, $1.20; July, $1.21¼.

Chicago Grain and Provisions.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Wheat—May, $1.04⅞@1.05; July, 97⅝c. Corn—May, 58¼@58⅜c; July, 58¼c. Oats—May, old, 54c; May, 52¼c; July, old, 48c; July, 46⅛c. Pork—Jan., $12.45; May, $13.12½. Butter—Creameries, 20@29c; dairies, 18@25c. Eggs—21@23c. Poultry — Turkeys, 11c; chickens and springs, 9½c.

Chicago Union Stock Yards.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Cattle—Beeves, $3.50@6.15; cows and heifers, $1.20@4.60; Texans, $3.15@4.00; calves, $5.00@6.75; Western cattle, $4.30@4.60; stockers and feeders, $2.45@4.25. Hogs—Light, $4.25@4.75; mixed, $4.40@4.80; heavy, $4.35@4.80; rough, $4.35@4.45; pigs, $3.85@4.55. Sheep, $2.50@4.85; yearlings, $4.70@5.40; lambs, $4.50@6.80.

BODY IN THE COFFIN

Druce Grave in London Reopened by the Authorities.

EXPLODES ROMANTIC STORY

Witnesses in Contest for Estate of the Duke of Portland Had Testified That Casket Contained a Two-Hundred Pound Roll of Lead.

London, Dec. 31.—The body of Thomas Charles Druce in Highgate cemetery was exhumed just forty-three years to a day after its burial. The coffin was found to contain the remains of a human body, thus exploding the romantic tale of Robert C. Caldwell and others, who swore during the recent hearing of the Druce perjury case that it contained a roll of lead.

The official statement given out by representatives of the home office and others, who were officially present at the exhumation, not only definitely disposes of the lead myth but seems effectively to prove that the body buried in 1864 was actually that of T. C. Druce. The authorized statement follows:

"The coffin was opened and found to contain the body of an aged, bearded man; the plate on the coffin bore the name 'Thomas Charles Druce.'"

All the entrances to the cemetery were surrounded by cordons of police. Only those persons who had passes from the home office were admitted to the grounds. George Hollamby Druce, who claims he is the rightful heir to the Portland dukedom and to its vast estate, tried twice to get into the cemetery, but was met with a stern refusal.

The Druce vault has thus given up its secret after ten years of legal proceedings which have cost, all told, a considerable fortune. A large part of this money was obtained from servant girls and other workers who were induced to buy shares in a company formed to prosecute the claims of George Hollamby Druce against the estate of the Duke of Portland.

The charge of perjury against Herbert Druce is effectively disposed of.

ON CHARGE OF PERJURY.

Principal Witness in Druce Case Held by New York Officials.

New York, Dec. 31.—Robert C. Caldwell, whose testimony as a witness in the so called Druce case led to the reopening of the grave of T. C. Druce, is now at the home of his daughter at New Brighton, Staten Island. He is under $5,000 bonds to answer to a charge of perjury preferred by the British authorities in connection with the story he told in the London court. Caldwell was arrested when he arrived here from Europe Dec. 21.

Caldwell's story of the alleged dual personality of the Duke of Portland was the real sensation of one of the most remarkable legal cases which ever engaged the attention of the British courts. The reopening of the Druce grave was undertaken as a final effort of the government to prove their charge that Caldwell's testimony was "willful and corrupt perjury." In substance Caldwell's story, upon which the claim of the Druce heirs for the great fortune and the title of the Duke of Portland was based, was to the effect that the Duke of Portland and T. C. Druce, a London storekeeper, were one and the same. He had known the Duke of Portland under both names, he said, and at the request of the duke had arranged a pretended death and mock funeral of Druce so that his dual personality could be buried. He swore that a coffin buried in Highgate cemetery and which was supposed to hold the body of T. C. Druce in reality contained only 200 pounds of lead. It was this coffin which was exhumed.

ALL WOMEN TO BE EXCLUDED

Ruling by Judge Dowling Concerning Thaw Case.

New York, Dec. 31.—All women except members of Thaw's family and the women reporters will be excluded from the courtroom during the second trial of Harry K. Thaw under an order issued by Justice Dowling. Thaw's trial will begin next Monday. The reason given for this order is that the seating capacity of the courtroom has been reduced greatly since the first trial and will now accommodate only about 150 spectators. Justice Dowling is said also to be determined to prevent a recurrence of the annoyance caused at the last trial by women moved by morbid curiosity who made use of every means at their command to secure admission to a courtroom already overcrowded.

REGISTERED POUCH STOLEN

Impossible to Tell How Much Robbers Secured.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 31.—Officers have just disclosed the fact that a bundle of letters, registered packages, etc., were stolen from the mail trucks at Temple, Tex., probably Saturday night, and taken to a thicket near here and opened. About $15,000 worth of checks, money orders and drafts were found in a pile where the letters had been torn open, but all registered packages and money in letters had been taken. It is impossible to tell how much money was secured. The letters were for points all over the United States.

GREATEST IN SOME YEARS

Transatlantic Passenger Travel During 1907.

New York, Dec. 31.—Transatlantic passenger travel, east and westbound, has been greater during the year 1907 than in any period for the past four or five years. This travel for the year 1907 reached the enormous total of 2,957,328.

The passenger movement for the year was 972,640 greater than for the year 1906 and 1,451,151 greater than for the year 1905. The westbound or travel from Europe to the United States reached a total of 1,699,340, which is 200,000 in excess of the combined east and westbound travel during the year 1905. The eastbound travel for the year 1907 consisted of 1,257,328 persons.

Of the combined east and westbound travel for the year 1907, which is within 500,000 of the population of Greater New York, the steamships of the North German Lloyd company carried the enormous total of 338,000 persons in round numbers. This exceeds in numbers the population of the states of Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota or the District of Columbia and is equal to the combined population of the states of Nevada and Wyoming and the territories of Alaska and Arizona.

The most sensational passenger movement of the year was in the eastbound steerage. This reached the enormous figure of 550,045, or 242,565 greater than 1906. This entire movement was concentrated during the last two months of the year.

TRAIN ROLLS INTO RIVER

Number of Persons Killed on Southern Pacific.

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 31.—West bound Southern Pacific passenger train No. 30 left the track at Floriston and rolled into the Truckee river. Several persons were killed, but the number is not known. A call was sent to Sacramento for physicians.

Michigan Village Destroyed.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Dec. 31.—A message from Richards Landing says that that village was destroyed by fire. The loss is stated to be $200,000. There are only three business buildings left. Richards Landing is a town on St. Josephs island, below the Soo. It is the center of a rich agricultural and timber district. The population is nearly 1,000.