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THE SEATTLE STAR.

Telephone Subscriptions to
Pike 150

VOL. I. SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 28, 1899. NO. 106.

SOME PHYSICIANS ARE DISPLEASED

By The Star's Statements Regarding the Medical Trust.

AND THEY VOICE THEIR OPINIONS

A Number of Seattle's Prominent Citizens Also Volunteer Remarks Upon the Interesting Subject

The Star's article on the "doctors' trust," published yesterday, is today the one theme discussed by the local medical fraternity. Star reporters visited the office of nearly every physician in the city and did not find one who had not read the article in question. Some who were not regular readers of the paper had received marked copies from other practitioners, and there was no hesitancy about talking on the subject when the interviewers appeared. An effort was made to see every physician in Seattle, but many were out attending to their professional duties, hence the poll was not altogether satisfactory. In every case the Star's representatives were politely received, although some emphatic expressions of disapprobation were made by those who did not approve of the course of the paper. Their statements are given in full, just as made to the reporters. It is the intention of the Star to always give both sides of every controversy, in an endeavor to secure fair play.

Not one of the doctors denied the correctness of the statements made by the Star regarding the scale of prices charged, or the organization which exists to keep up the prices. Several did ask, however, for the name of the physician who had given to the paper a copy of the private constitution and fee list of the Medical society. The Star could not consistently grant these requests for information. It has, however, in its possession one of the printed copies of the "Constitution, By-laws and Fee Bill of the King County Medical Society," presented to it by one of the prominent doctors of Seattle, and the statements published yesterday regarding the fees and the penalties for non-conformity were taken word for word from this pamphlet.

Statements of Doctors.

Dr. Thomas W. Sloan: "I do not think the schedule of fees here in Seattle is too high for the average patient. Of course, there are persons who are unable to pay the minimum fee, and to such I have often donated my services. The latitude given in the schedule is based on the patient's ability to pay. It is a case of the rich paying for the poor, for an average must be struck somehow, or physicians would be in bad straits. While I have never reduced the fees below the standard set by the society, I have often, in cases where I deemed it proper, rendered a bill for the full amount and accepted at portions settlement."

* * *

Dr. W. J. Booth appeared very reluctant to discuss the question. He declined to say whether or not he would accept less than the schedule fee from a patient unable to pay such amount.

* * *

Dr. S. J. Holmes: "I do not think that any reputable physician would oppress a patient to the extent of insisting on payment in accordance with the fee bill if he believed that by so doing it would grievously embarrass him. It is my custom in such cases to present a bill according to the schedule of the society, but to take what I can get in payment. As for the argument advanced against high fees, to the effect the sufferer is deterred from calling in a physician, knowing that he will be taxed according to our society's scale I will state that this schedule is not supposed to be in the hands of any but members of the society, so that the patient is practically ignorant of what he may be charged. The position of the patient is a factor that is considered in fixing a fee. A wealthy patient is, of course, charged more than one in more moderate circumstances, and this has always been the custom."

* * *

Dr. Annie Russell: "I am not a member of the King County Medical society, but have adopted their schedule of fees, as has every other physician of any standing in Seattle. I, however, accept smaller fees from poor patients. I believe that the ability of a person to pay should be considered in fixing the amount of a bill. The rates for medical services in Eastern cities cannot be established here, if for no other reason than that the security for payment there doesn't exist here, on account of the large floating population. A physician in the East does not lose more than 10 per cent. of the money due him. Here he is fortunate if he doesn't lose more than 25 per cent."

* * *

Dr. F. A. Noble: "The whole secret of high fees here in Seattle lies in the counter prescription habit. There is not a drug store in Seattle, the proprietor and clerks of which are not continually usurping the functions of physicians and prescribing for customers. While, of course, the greater number of such persons finally visit physicians, nevertheless, patients are thereby diverted. In my own practice I exercise a great deal of discretion. While not a member of the King County Medical society, I believe that under present conditions the fees are reasonable and just. I do not see any lack of consistency in charging different fees to rich and poor for the same services. I also believe that a physician is not violating the schedule if he discounts bills rendered to his patients."

* * *

Dr. T. M. Young, homeopathic physician: "I do not adhere religiously to the schedule, but do not believe that the fees set forth are too high. We cannot come down to the fees charged in Eastern cities. I came to Seattle in '89, and commenced practice under the Eastern system of fees. While I did $300 worth of business during the year, I found it necessary to draw on my bank account for $150 at its close. I do not think that the latitude given in the fee bill is based in any measure on the patient's ability to meet a fee, but upon the changes and complications that might result as the case advances, calling for more attention and different treatment."

Opinions of Druggists.

Mr. A. B. Stewart, of Stewart & Holmes, expressed a doubt as to the existence of a real "doctors' trust." He did not think it would hold together. He thought that those patients who could afford it were charged enough to make up for bad debts. Said he: "No black-list could be maintained for those who will not pay, and someone must foot the bills. I can see no other use for two fee-rates."

* * *

Mr. Lee, of Lee's Pharmacy, was indignant over the whole matter, and declared: "There is no 'doctors' trust.' That is a wrong statement for a paper to make. If you want to know it, I don't have much respect for a paper that will agitate this sort of thing. When any other profession does as much for charity as the doctor's do," said Mr. Lee, warmly, "then it will be time to raise a howl." Mr. Lee said that he doubted whether the doctors collected one-fourth of what was due them. He said that charges here were higher than in Canada, where he learned his business. "The whole thing is malicious," he added, "there is no trust. Why, you might say there is also a trust among druggists, but there is not. We simply make an agreement to sell patent medicines at certain fixed prices. There is no trust about it, though." Mr. Lee was positive that it cost more to live in Seattle than in other places.

Opinions of Citizens.

John Lamb, one of the school directors, said: "The prices charged by Seattle physicians is excessive. They ask double the amount demanded in Eastern states. The citizens of Seattle object."

* * *

City Engineer Thompson thinks the Star is right in attacking the "doctors' trust." "The prices charged in Seattle are a great deal higher than those of other cities," said he, "and the poorer classes of people cannot afford to pay."

* * *

Police Clerk Kennedy does not like the idea of a "doctors' trust," and told a Star reporter today that some steps should be taken to discourage it. "The only way the police can do," he solemnly remarked, "is to form a trust not to get sick."

* * *

J. L. Palmer, proprietor of the Hotel York: "It's about time that medical fees in this city should be reduced. The cost of living in Seattle does not warrant the high charges of doctors. I am very glad to see the Star take the matter up, and I would like to see the doctors' combine broken at once. People in Seattle have been over-charged too long by the doctors."

* * *

Councilman Diller, of the Diller hotel: "Doctor's fees are, no doubt, too high here when the cost of living is taken into consideration. I would like to see the fees reduced. When $2.00 and $2.50 is charged for a visit, it bears too heavily on people in moderate circumstances. I don't know anything about the so-called doctors' combine. If there is one, it should be broken."

* * *

A prominent lawyer in the city, who did not wish his name used, said he knew of several cases where excessive fees were charged for visiting the sick. One doctor called repeatedly at a neighbors just across the alley from his home, and charged $2.50 per visit.

* * *

Assistant Postmaster Colkett did not know anything of charges elsewhere, but was positive that doctors did not charge the same here for visits of the same length. He remembered one visit to his house within the last month where the charge was less than that given in the schedule.

Coat of Tar and Feathers

DANVILLE, Ill., June 28.—James Briley, an, alleged wife beater of Rossville, was severely whipped by whitecaps and given a thick coat of tar and feathers. With no other covering he caught a freight train for this place and was taken to a hospital.

May Spank Her Husband

NEW YORK, June 28.—The Ausky vs. Ausky spanking case was decided today by Police Justice Wakefield at Portchester, and Mrs. Ausky was declared justified in spanking Mr. Ausky when he refused to bring up some coal. Judge Wakefield further told Mrs. Ausky that she should repeat the spanking whenever her husband got boisterous. Upon this Ausky jumped in a wagon, saying he would never return.

RACE WON BY PENNSYLVANIA

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., June 28.—One of the most exciting race in boating circles was pulled off here last night. Pennsylvania won, with Wisconsin, the unknown quantity, a close second. Cornell, the winner of the races for the past four years, and Columbia were not in it at all after the first mile. Wisconsin would undoubtedly have won by at least three-quarters of length if a berry crate had not got in the way. In order to avoid a collision, the steersman put the boat out of the coarse, and was not able to turn it in time to make the best finish. The 20,000 people who saw the race yelled themselves hoarse over the exciting finish.

NAVIGATION ON THE YUKON

SKAGWAY, June 23.—Navigation on the Upper Yukon is increasing daily, and the water in the lakes is rapidly deepning. Lake Bennett is rising from two to three inches per day. The warm weather of late has caused much snow to melt in the mountains, and many streams are pouring into lake Linderman, Bennett, Summit and Middle. The shallow water between Bennett and Carlbon, which has heretofore been a serious hindrance to navigation, is now quite deep.

IS IT ONLY A FAIRY TALE?

Or Is the President Really Displeased?

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 28.—It is intimated here that when the troops now being recruited(arrive at Manila, they will report to Lawton instead of Otis. A hint that the administration is displeased with the work of Otis cannot be officially verified.

MRS. McKINLEY FEELS BETTER

Prospects of the President's Trip to the Greot West.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 28.—The condition of Mrs. McKinley was greatly improved this morning. The report that the president has cancelled his proposed Western trip on account of her condition is untrue. He never promised to go to Minneapolis, or the Pacific coast, but accepted invitations on the condition that nothing should prevent, and thus the matter stands. Unless something intervenes, the trip will probably be made.

A SPECIAL MEETING.

There will be a special meeting tonight of the Alaska Geographical society at the parlors of the Rainier-Grand hotel, to meet a party of distinguished gentlemen from the East who are in the city, expecting to leave for Alaska tomorrow on the steamer Queen. Arrangements have been made for short addresses by Col. James Hamilton Lewis, Col. A. J. Blethen, Rev. H. H. Gowen, and others. The attendance of members of the society is requested.

FUNERAL OF THE ENSIGN

SPOKANE, June 28.—One of the largest and most impressive funerals ever held here, was that yesterday of Ensign John Robert Monaghan, U. S. N., who was slain in Samoa. Civic ceremonies were held in the forenoon. The services were held in the church of the Jesuit Fathers of Gonzaga, and the funeral cortege was made up of secret orders, military orders, city officials, and many others.

BLEW OUT HER FLUES

Accident on a Steamboat Accompanied by Fatalities.

ST. LOUIS, June 28.—The steamer St. Paul blew out her boiler-flues, near Alton, last night. Three men were scalded to death. Two others received probable fatal injuries.

The coroner's inquest over the remains of James Murray, who was murdered Monday night, was held this afternoon, and the jury brought in a verdict of murder by someone unknown to the jury. Several witnesses to the crime testified, but nothing new was brought out.

GIGANTIC COMBINE

Fertilizer Trust With $2,500,000

HAS JUST BEEN INCORPORATED

To Control One Branch of Business on the Pacific Coast.

By filing articles of incorporation this morning, the North American Fertilizer & Fishery company started the formation of a gigantic trust to control the fertilizer industry of the Pacific Northwest. There are five fertilizer plants on the coast, and the plans are to induce them all to come into the trust. The capital stock of which will be $2,500,000.

The incorporators of the Northwest Fertilizer & Fishing company are: J. Furth, Geo. W. Dickson, E. C. Neufelter, and James S. Goldsmith, of Seattle; and Nicholas Ohlandt, Clarence W. Coburn, and Alexander Morrison, of San Francisco, and the capital stock is $1,500,000. They have secured the Robinson & Colt Fertilizing plant, at Anacortes. The plant will be enlarged, new and improved machinery will be put in, and the output very materially increased. Contracts have already been signed for the total output of the plant for the next 10 years, at good prices.

The output for this season will be between 2000 and 300 tons of fertilizer, and between 2000 and 3000 gallons of fish oil, which will be greatly increased in the ensuing years.

The men back of the proposition are Nicholas Ohlandt, Clarence W. Coburn, of the firm of Coburn & Tevis, of San Francisco, and Alexander Morrison, a prominent San Francisco attorney, representing large interests.

The fertilizer manufactured by the trust will be shipped mostly to Japan and the Hawaiian Islands.

THAT BRIBERY INVESTIGATION

Nothing has been done, so far by the committee appointed by the city council Monday night to investigate the charges rumored that various city officials were accepting bribe money from the Chinese opium smokers of the city, and promising them police protection in return. Councilman Wm. McArdle, one of the members of the committee, stated to a Star reporter this morning that the committee would begin a canvass of the Chinese dens on Friday and get what facts they could from the opium smokers. "Do you intend to made a rigid investigation," was asked of Mr. McArdle. In reply he stated that "the committee would investigate the rumor, and if any one was found guilty, arrests would follows."

Charles A. Howard, a colored barber, age 46, died suddenly at his home, 1215½ Third avenue, at 1 o'clock this morning, of pneumonia, after a short illness. This morning he expressed a desire to sit up for a short time, and he was placed in a chair. Several minutes later he fell forward dead. He leaves a wife—a white woman.

PREDICTS RATE WAR

A well known railway man of this city predicts that within a fortnight a rate war to Eastern points will commence between the Southern Pacific, Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways. He says that a big cut in the present rates is bound to be made, and that as warm a time as that during the rate war of last year will be experienced.

In railway circles today there was considerable talk of a pending rate war, which would probably result in rates being cut in two. Railway officials however were reticent on the subject, and several stated that there was absolutely nothing in the story.

The railway man who predicts the rate cutting, said to a Star reporter this morning: "The present trouble arose out of the cut made by the Southern Pacific to get the National Educational association to travel over its line. A rate was made much lower than the Northern Pacific and Great Northern ever thought of.

"A protest was made by the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways,p but it apparently has not been heeded. If the Southern Pacific does not offer a satisfactory explanation of its big cut in this particular case, I am in a position to say that a rate war will follow.

"There are several minor causes that lead me to believe that the present rates cannot be maintained. The three lines are now at loggerheads over both freight and passenger rates, and if the ultimatum sent out by the Northern lines to the Southern Pacific is not given, the proper consideration, lower rates will follow."

At the C. P. R. offices here, nothing but rumors of a pending rate war has been heard. Several eastbound travelers made enquiries at the offices of the other lines as to a probable reduction in the rate, and were informed that there had been no definite move in that direction yet.

An answer from the Southern Pacific is, it is understood, looked for in a day or two.

The Strike Settled.

CHICAGO, Ill., June 28.—The stock yard strike has been settled, and the men went back to work this morning.

Drilling for the Prize.

COLFAX, Wash., June 28.—Company B, National Guard of Washington, received its new uniforms, 45 in number, yesterday morning, and spent the day in assorting them and getting them ready to wear. The boys are drilling every night in the hope of winning the $100 prize at Tacoma on July 4, and also have strong hopes of being given an opportunity to see service in the Philippines.

Camp Meeting at Colfax

COLFAX, Wash., June 28.—The Methodists of the Moscow district will hold a camp meeting in the grove on Clear creek, five miles east of Colfax, beginning July 5 and continuing ten days, and possibly longer, if the interest manifested will warrant a continuance. A big time is expected as most of the ministers in the district are expected to be present and assist in the work. Several prominent revivalists will be present.

GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE

The United States government has decided to send out a revenue cutter to investigate the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the little steamer Jessie and the 18 people aboard her in or near the mouth of the Kuskokwim river. News to this effect was received yesterday in a letter from S. M. Rock, first assistant engineer of the cutter Corwin, to Richard Camden. The letter states that the cutter has received orders to investigate the Kuskokwim expedition, and asks that photographs and other identifying articles be sent. The cutter is now en route to Kuskokwim bay, in Bering sea.

Those on the Jessie were: W. T. Reyton, Tennessee; R. P. Friarson, Tennessee; Dr. R. Allen, Kentucky; A. C. Stetson, Harry Hedreen, Seattle; E. S. Lines, Connecticut; O. F. Amraud, Seattle; Engineer Kensler, —, Smallhouse, C. H. Wintchell, J. T. Murphy, Kentuck; Eli Knudsen, Genesee, Idaho; Clifford Hare, England; Japanese cook, Rev. R. Webber, wife and two children.

DEWEY MOVES TOWARD HOME

Another Cablegram Telling of His Start for Port Said.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 28.—The Navy department received the following this morning: "Colombo, Port Said." Translated, the dispatch means, the Olympia, with Dewey aboard, sailed this morning from Colombo to Port Said, and will make no intermediate stops.

CHICAGO AT LAST SHOCKED

CHICAGO, Ill., June 28.—The eyes of all Chicago were turned today on the lake front fountain, and the gasp which was caused when the nude figures of heroic-sized nymphs were first exposed to the critical gaze of cultured Chicago was lengthened and deepened into titanic proportions. These nymphs were modeled by young women under the direction of Lorado Taft, director of the sculpture department of the Art Institute.

The majority of the great crowds were of the opinion that Chicago's morals were going straight to the bow wows if such nudity in stone was to be permitted to be on view.

President C. C. Bartlett, of the Law Enforcement league, said: "The trouble with these figures in my opinion, is that they are not nymphs. A nymph is a creature with a perfect figure and therefore a beautiful figure. These figures were evidently made from models who were distorted by tight-lacing. The figures, therefore, are those of nineteenth century corset victims."

"You couldn't keep the people off the grass," said Policeman Dolan, "when they got a 'rubber' on that bunch of plaster fairies. It would take forty coppers to do it. I have been on this post long enough to know something about art myself, both nude and nudeless, but that is the best that ever came down the pike. One little feather-weight woman went over there and 'rubbered' at it for half an hour, and then asked me why I permitted such a spectacle."

DRY WEATHER IN THE EAST

DENVER, Col., June 28.—According to reports received from Secretary Charles F. Martin, of the National Live Stock association, the drouth has destroyed all the large Colorado ranges. "The reports to hand," said Mr. Martin, "show that unless there is speedy relief from the present conditions, the loss to stockmen will be something enormous. Even should the cattle and sheep survive the summer they will be so poor and emaciated when the snows come that they will drop like leaves from the forest."

Already cattle are dying in the San Luis valley, where the drouth has assumed a most serious phase. Like conditions, varying in severity, are reported from Northern New Mexico, parts of Oklahoma, the Indian nations, Western Kansas and the southern part of Utah.

"As I understand it an X-ray will go straight through a man's head. There is nothing quite so penetrating is there?"

"Oh, I don't know. Did you ever hear my daughter sing?"

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If the Shoe Fit, Etc.

If we could trace the wealth of nations arising from their mines, it would be found to be beyond calculation. And yet there is no industry which gets such little support from the general public. Hiding behind the remark, "I don't know anything about such things," there is a world of prejudice with which the malicious and the envious may always be counted upon to use in wrecking even properties proved to be exceedingly valuable.

There is no class of men superior to the prospector and miner. Their courage is unequaled and with hearts overflowing with the milk of human kindness they are ever foremost where quick, generous charity is in demand.

The 2 or 3 per cent. per month Shylocks will probably differ with us in our estimate of the legitimacy of mining, especially as a bulwark against which future waves of misfortune will harmlessly break in their wild efforts to engulf the prosperity of Seattle.

There is such a thing as aggravating common calamity by talking of matters of which we are wholly ignorant.

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