

SPECIAL LETTER TO THE MIRROR FROM THE COUNTRY'S METROPOLIS

Matters of Interest to the Whole Country are Reported by Edward Staats Luther From New York City.

(Special Correspondence.) New York, March 16.—E. H. Harriman is becoming positively garrulous these days. He is taking the public into his confidence, through the newspapers, on every possible occasion and is getting enough space in the public prints to make the most successful actress turn green with envy. Mr. Harriman's complete reversal of form, from being probably the most unapproachable in Wall street to being the most approachable, has jarred the financial district thoroughly. People who have known him for years are wondering whether the new Harriman, after his meeting with the Interstate Commerce Commission, is like the devil who, when sick, would be like a monk, or whether the reformation of Harriman is bona fide, 19 carat and will stand the acid test. As far as the general public is concerned it seems to give Mr. Harriman the benefit of the doubt and to accept him at face value as a great financier willing to take the public into his confidence concerning the companies under his control. If Mr. Harriman lives up to his view, as it is to be hoped he will, it will mean the beginning of a new era in American finance. Too long have our magnates of Wall street been carried away with the idea so vigorously expressed by the late Commodore Vanderbilt when he said "The public be damned." If Mr. Harriman at last has come to the realization that the new school of finance can benefit itself by working in harmony with the public, he will have inaugurated a reform which promises to result in untold benefits to the entire country. No other man today could take such a stand with a certainty of producing such far reaching results. As though the wonders would never cease in the financial district, George W. Perkins too has turned reformer. This is the same Perkins who is with the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and who figured so prominently through being Vice-President of the New York Life Insurance company, in the investigation of the insurance companies during 1905. In returning to the New York Life the sum of \$48,500, with interest, which had been paid to Mr. Perkins to reimburse him for money turned over to the Republican National Committee in 1904, Mr. Perkins fore-stalled the officers of the company in any movement that they might have inaugurated to compel restitution. The court of Appeals, last month, when it decided that Mr. Perkins had committed no criminal act in taking the money from the company, stated plainly that, although not criminally liable, Mr. Perkins could be held civilly to the company. Mr. Perkins is certainly one of the most remarkable men who ever trod the New York financial trail. No one ever heard him testify in the insurance investigation, in reply to questions put by the present Governor of the State, doubts for a moment that Perkins' chief ailment is "exaggerated ergo." His "letter from father," which he dragged into that investigation and insisted upon reading probably never will cease to be a joke wherever Mr. Perkins name is mentioned. In spite of these amusing side lights on his character, there is no denying the remarkable success this man has attained in the financial world. He started as an office boy in the New York Life in 1879, and is now a multi-millionaire member of the wealthiest New York banking house while for a time he practically controlled the affairs of the big life insurance company with which he started. Henry C. Frick has again let Wall street feel his power in a no uncertain manner. This Pittsburg capitalist, who is so vastly different from most of the self-made affairs that come out of Pittsburg, does not interfere very often in speculative affairs. When he does there is action every time. In his Reading deal Mr. Frick's work was typical. For months at a time nobody in the financial district ever heard of this man, who now lives here, occupied the George W. Vanderbilt house in Fifth Avenue. Then suddenly, he emerges from his seeming obscurity, takes off a few million dollars in quick profits in the market, and goes back again to the even tenor of his ways. Frick really is an ideal type of the self made American. He is no uncut diamond like some of the millionaires who have come from out of the West. He is polished, educated and possesses a natural refinement and a quiet demeanor which never would lead anybody to believe that he came from Pittsburg. His private art gallery is one of the finest in the country, and today perhaps it would not be inappropriate to refer to him as an unofficial head of the United Steel Corporation. Pneumonia now is killing over 200 people a week in Greater New York. All the hospitals are being besieged for the admission of patients suffering from this ailment and these institutions are taxed to their utmost. This probably has been one of the most unhealthy winters New York has experienced in many a year, and, whatever we New Yorkers may say about our city, when indulging in some pride puffed remarks, we certainly cannot say much for New York weather. It is the dampest of damp colds in winter, and the hot, test of humid hot in summer. With the humidity and ever-changing conditions it certainly is the limit. So much so that recently, when a New Yorker consulted his doctor and asked him if he did not need a change the latter replied: "Yes you do need a change. Stay right here in town and you will get one every half hour." Just as the snowfall this winter has been most unusual for the metropolis, so have been the moisture and the fogs. This, physicians hold, is responsible for the prevalence of pulmonary troubles which are causing an average of 550 deaths a week. Many revolutionary changes are being made in the confectionary trade by the workings of the Pure Food Law. One of the most pleasing of the changes is the elimination of tons and tons of cheap candies made of glucose and colored with various minerals which even tax the proverbial digestion of the small boy. Glucose now is being made in a different manner than heretofore and it is said that the glucose industry has been obliged to spend a million dollars on new processes in order to comply with the new statutes. Mineral colors are tabooed, paraffine is on trial, and the manufacturers of cheap candy are in despair of being able to supply their old market. One of the largest of these manufacturers has gone out of business, and the ones who remain are spending their days and their nights trying to figure a way out to beat the law. One result is that the manufacturers of high grade goods are being overwhelmed with orders because dealers have not yet been able to find out what is safe to sell in the way of cheap articles. When things get dull on the New York Stock Exchange at any time the members can rig up a star indoor tennis tournament without any trouble. Within the last few days two expert players, one the present champion of the United States and the other a former champion, were elected to memberships. Both were proposed by another former champion of the racquet. The two members were William A. Larned, who for many years held the Intercollegiate and United States championships and William J. Clothier, who now holds the American honors. Their proposer was Robert D. Wrenn, who, some years ago, wrestled from Larned the tennis championship for this country. Although not entirely of its own volition, the United States Government has become the first government to possess its own airship. While possession was not sought by Uncle Sam, effort will be made to make the machine a revenue earner for the government. The airship was brought to this country by Santos Dumont for exhibition in 1904. As is customary in cases of this kind, a bond was deposited with the customs authorities to the seizure room and will be of six months, when it was assumed the machine would be returned to France. For some unknown reason the airship was stored in St. Louis at the close of the Exposition, and there it remained until recently, when it was brought to this city, consigned to the seizure room and will be sold at public auction as soon as the government can get rid of its white elephant. Now that New York City formally has taken title to a strip of ground 200 feet wide and 96 miles long, stretching from the city line to the Ashokan reservoir in the Catskills, all is in readiness for beginning real work on the aqueduct. It is on this enterprise that the city plans to spend \$161,000,000 to provide an adequate source of water supply for its inhabitants for generations to come. It is along this strip of land, to which title has been taken, that the great aqueduct will be built to bring hundreds of millions of gallons of water daily from the Catskill mountains to the city. Now that the legal transfer of the property has been made, contracts will be awarded shortly for the building of the work. The job of building the reservoirs and aqueducts for the city is as big a one as the construction of the Panama Canal and the city will be lucky if it does not have to pay at least \$200,000,000 before the work is through. It is estimated that twenty-five years will be required to finish the work, and the supply thus developed, it is figured, will last the city for fifty years more. The careless handling of dynamite at points where an explosion would inflict almost untold damage never was better exemplified than a couple of weeks ago when a large amount of dynamite exploded near the water front. It had been stored there carelessly by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which did not care apparently what would happen if anything set it off. Every few days something comes to light in the ordinary events of the city to show the utter recklessness of people who handle and ship this high explosive. A few days ago a package was broken at the receiving depot of an express company in the Grand Central Station. The break was caused by rough handling and as the box went to pieces three sticks of dynamite rolled out. It had come in the Chicago express without any mark to show its nature and the express company, of course, was not to blame. There is a law against shipping dynamite or any other explosive on a passenger train, or to ship it at all without proper marks. It is a rule, however, more frequently noted in the breach than in the observance. EDWARD STAATS LUTHER



MARIE STUDHOLME AND HER SUNNY SMILE.

Miss Marie Studholme, the English actress, is a woman of whom a visitor once quoted, "There is a garden in her face where roses and white lilies grow." She possesses a complexion that causes admirers to rave. Her smile is held to be one of the most winningly sweet in all the world. Miss Studholme married a young actor named Porteous as soon as she left school, and the couple settled down to lead a really idyllic life. Nevertheless, on the young actress' first visit to the United States she received many proposals of marriage from "Johnnies" who were captivated by her beauty.

Every town should have a lively commercial club. Modern Conditions Require That Each Community Must Work Out Its Own Salvation—Business Men's Organizations Growing More General. Nearly every town that has its eyes open has a board of trade. It may be called a commercial club or a business men's league or something of that sort; but, whatever its name may be, the purposes of the organization are to boom the town. The board of trade is a modern idea. It grew out of modern conditions. Rome was pretty near the whole thing in ancient days and didn't need a commercial club to push it along. It had no competitors to speak of. But that was Rome, Italy—at any rate, what is now called Italy. As to Rome, Ga., and Paris, Tex., and New London, Mo., the case is quite different. These towns and all other towns on the map have competitors to burn, competitors to compete with. If they simply drag along at the tail end of the cart of progress, they won't amount to much. Each town must work out its own salvation. The board of trade is one means of town salvation. This organization is made up of the business men in the community. The banker is in it and the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker. The merchants and professional men are in it. The preacher ought to be in it. Everybody ought to be in it that has the interests of the community at heart. During the past few years the town board of trade or commercial club has developed surprisingly. Nowadays there are many towns of less than a thousand population, particularly in the middle west and the far west, which have active boards of trade. There can be no denial of the good these organizations do. When properly conducted, as most of them are, they not only develop a more neighborly and friendly feeling among the members themselves, which always helps a town; but they reach out and draw others into the fold. They are really boards of public promotion.

EVENTS OCCURRING AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL

An Interesting Letter From the Mirror's Correspondent at Washington—Occurrences in Washington From a Democratic Point of View.

Special Correspondence of the Mirror. Washington, D. C., March 16.—I witnessed the death of five Congresses and the death of the Fifty-ninth Congress was very little different from those that have preceded it. It was marked in the early days of its last session with the same laziness and disinclination to work as all the others and the same rush and mad scramble to push things through, in the closing hours. And nothing, as has marked previous Congresses of the Republican variety, so much became the last Congress as its death. As a friend of mine wrote me not long ago: "Please send me all the entries pronounced on dead members of Congress that you can. There's nothing I like so much to read about as dead Congressmen." And here is nothing so interesting to the people and especially to their pocketbooks, if they did but know it, as a dead Republican Congress, the Fifty-ninth Congress, more than any other in history, perhaps, passed more legislation that smacks of paternalism and centralized government, the trend of the times, made so by the masterful politician in the White House. The President completely dominated both branches of the Congress and swayed the members to his will in nearly every thing he asked with the exception of a few, and these he will jam through next winter or smash the heads of some of the leaders with his big stick. They seem to be afraid of him, but why they should I do not understand, because in every instance where the leaders have taken a determined stand and told him it would wreck the party for him to insist on the things they were objecting to he always sidestepped and backed down, just as he did in the railway rate legislation in the first session of the last Congress when he sold out to Aldrich and the railroad magnates and let them have their way and enslave the rail in their interests and against those of the people. And yet the people believed the Republican stump speakers in the last campaign when they asserted that the Republican party was responsible for the greatest piece of legislation in history and that Roosevelt was its father. The assertion is idiotic and yet the people go right on believing it and believing the man in the White House. That man in the White House is not a statesman, he is a politician. In the language of the Hon. John Sharp Williams, "he is an overrated author and an underrated politician." That sizes him up exactly and the people of this country will sooner or later find it out, no matter what they believe at this time. The Democrats did not do much in the last Congress, didn't have the chance, but what they did do, they did well. They made some tactical errors and blunders from the standpoint of politics in the first session. For instance, instead of bringing in a bill for absolute free trade with the Philippines, insisting that if the Islands belonged to this country there was no more sense of right and justice in charging any kind of tariff on goods coming from there than there was in charging a tariff on interstate commerce, they accepted the Republican bill, cutting down the tariff on goods from there twenty-five per cent. The Democratic leaders said it was a half a loaf and better than no bread. That may be academic statesmanship, but it is not politics. If they had stuck to the suggestion I made, they would have divided that great Republican majority into two hostile camps, the regulars and the insurgents, the insurgents being the advocates of beet sugar. Then we would have ripped the Philippine tariff bill of the Republicans up the back, and with the help of the insurgent Republicans, who would have stood with the Democrats through gratitude, we would have defeated the administrator's statehood bill in the House, thereby putting the great republican majority in a lude, soaped the sides and pulled up the ladder. Joe Cannon and his cohorts never could have got together again during the entire life of the last Congress, and it would have gone into history as the worst disrupted and badly busted Republican majority that ever controlled a Congress. While I do not advocate fighting the devil with fire, because he is popularly supposed to have more ammunition than we have, yet I am an opportunist in politics and I believe in the policy of pestering them to the finish, especially when they are wrong, and they usually are on general principles. The second session of the Fifty-ninth Congress did little more than to Continued on Page Twelve.

THE BOARD OF TRADE

Every Town Should Have a Lively Commercial Club.

NO PLACE TOO SMALL FOR ONE

Modern Conditions Require That Each Community Must Work Out Its Own Salvation—Business Men's Organizations Growing More General.

Nearly every town that has its eyes open has a board of trade. It may be called a commercial club or a business men's league or something of that sort; but, whatever its name may be, the purposes of the organization are to boom the town.

The board of trade is a modern idea. It grew out of modern conditions. Rome was pretty near the whole thing in ancient days and didn't need a commercial club to push it along.

As to Rome, Ga., and Paris, Tex., and New London, Mo., the case is quite different. These towns and all other towns on the map have competitors to burn, competitors to compete with.

If they simply drag along at the tail end of the cart of progress, they won't amount to much. Each town must work out its own salvation.

The board of trade is one means of town salvation. This organization is made up of the business men in the community.

The banker is in it and the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker. The merchants and professional men are in it. The preacher ought to be in it.

Everybody ought to be in it that has the interests of the community at heart.

During the past few years the town board of trade or commercial club has developed surprisingly.

Nowadays there are many towns of less than a thousand population, particularly in the middle west and the far west, which have active boards of trade.

There can be no denial of the good these organizations do. When properly conducted, as most of them are, they not only develop a more neighborly and friendly feeling among the members themselves, which always helps a town; but they reach out and draw others into the fold.

They are really boards of public promotion.



MRS. W. BURKE COCKRAN AND HER ROMANCE.

One of the several romances growing out of the visit of Secretary Taft and his party to the Philippines two years ago was that of Congressman W. Bourke Cockran and Miss Annie Louise Ide. It will be remembered that a number of congressmen accompanied the secretary of war. Miss Ide who was—Mrs. W. Bourke Cockran who is—and the New York congressman met on this trip. The wedding took place some months after that of Congressman Longworth and Miss Roosevelt, who also accompanied the party. Mrs. Cockran is a daughter of General Henry Clay Ide, ex-governor of the Philippines. Her husband for many years has been a noted political orator.



"JUST LANDED"—A SCENE AT ELLIS ISLAND.

The illustration shows a typical group of immigrants at the gate of the United States, Ellis Island. The woman is a Hungarian. Like the immigrant women of other races, the Hungarians come laden with babies and bundles. Many of the incoming citizens carry all they have on their backs and in their arms. The money they possess does not average \$50 to an immigrant, though there are some who bring several thousand dollars. The wealth of the average immigrant consists chiefly of children. There is seldom any security in this respect. Millions of these children become full fledged Americans, prosperous and useful.