

### Citizens' League Activity

ACTIVITY of the Citizens' League continues, and the mere appearance of restoration of law abiding conditions is not enough to cause the League to relax its vigilance. Meetings of the executive committee are still held twice a week, daily reports are made by private investigators employed by the League, and a close tab is kept on the entire situation.

Following a long series of specific complaints against the so-called Swastika club, organized for the purpose of violating the gambling and liquor laws, and conducted in defiance of law in a downtown office building, the Citizens' League has secured from the district court an injunction restraining the officers of the club and others connected with its management from continuing to violate the gambling laws. Violation of the injunction is a personal offense, entailing a fine and imprisonment. It will be interesting to see if the proprietors and managers of the "club" will persist now that the district court has placed an injunction upon them.

Poker games, semi-public, are being run in various places about the city. These are not merely "friendly" games of a few regular players, but open games which make a practice of "capping," or bringing in suckers to trim. It is worth noting, moreover, that bridge whist has become a favorite gambling game of professionals. This is true not only here, but also in most other cities throughout the country. The familiar parlor game, long held as an innocent indulgence of the "best families," has become the chief medium of professional gambling in the "joints" all over the country. Bridge whist has largely supplanted draw and stud poker, faro, roulette, and the races, as the commonest game of chance.

Bridge gamblers often lose \$100 in a night with stakes 3c a point. Some "clubs" play at 5c and 10c a point, and the losses run into the hundreds per night. Experienced gamblers agree that they can take, and lose, more money at bridge under the now prevailing conditions than they used to at poker. Bridge is one of the favorite gambling games in the Swastika "club" here, and it is used for gambling to a considerable extent in private homes throughout the country.

It is a pity that a good game cannot be enjoyed without "sticking" somebody for money he cannot afford to lose. Playing games for the sake of playing, and for the pleasure of winning, may become a lost art if children and young folks are taught that there must be money stakes to make any game interesting. As for the professional gambling games, conducted in city resorts, they are wholly vicious, destructive of character, costly and detrimental in every way to the interests of the community, and deserve suppression.

Did governor Hunt leave anything unsaid?

### Rest Rooms For Visitors

HUNDREDS of people come to El Paso every day from the surrounding country, not only those who are passing through to other places and stop over here a few hours, but also those who come here with the deliberate purpose of shopping and seeing the sights. No public provision whatever is made for the comfort of these hundreds of women, children, and men. Visitors must actually trespass on hotels, public buildings, stores, or offices in order to wash their hands, get a drink of water, rest, or spruce up.

Some very progressive small towns, especially in the farming regions, are learning the wisdom of public rest rooms, where women and children, especially, can have their personal needs attended to without charge and without trespassing on private property and the good nature of citizens. There is every reason for such a place. El Paso as a community ought to give her guests and visitors as much attention and as thoughtful a welcome as any individual gives his friends at home. Most of us are inclined to underestimate the very important place which our visitors occupy in the economy of community existence. We are dependent on our out-of-town friends to an extraordinary degree, and it must not be forgotten that a very large proportion of them come here without having any definite place to go—no friends to visit, no club privileges, no desire (or perhaps no money to spare) to go to a hotel and rent a room for a few hours—and these people ought to be looked after in some way, and not left entirely dependent on their own initiative and on the courtesies of merchants and hotel keepers.

El Paso needs a sort of "Southwest Neighbors' club," where the fundamental comforts of club life might be readily available to visitors—women and children especially—from our neighbor cities and towns, here for a brief shopping or sight seeing tour. Perhaps some of the existing institutions might be broadened to take care of this special need, without unduly multiplying the present rather burdensome demands for public support.

These days a Mexican patriot has to make some careful inquiries when he gets up in the morning before he decides whom it is best to "viva" for.

### Dividend Paying Investments

PECOS CITY, in west Texas, is now investing \$22,500 in a new Methodist church building. Pecos already has some of the finest and most artistic and attractive churches in the west, and it is doubtful if any other city of 2500 persons in the whole country can show church buildings superior in any way to those of Pecos.

Pecos also has a high school building that is a model of modern design and equipment, and is also attractive in appearance. The general effect of light and cleanliness and airiness throughout the building is pleasing, and the school has been a valuable advertisement for Pecos, showing to prospective home makers that the city cares for the better things of life and is ready to spend money to get them.

Public improvements of every kind are a paying investment for a city. They return their whole cost over and over, and the benefits are widely distributed.

New Mexico may be able to set a holy example to Illinois and a few other states in the matter of senatorial purity.

### Booming Roosevelt

POLICE at Topeka, Kan., had to threaten arrest and fine for the members of the household of governor Stubbs, before they would promise to have the snow removed from the front sidewalk of the executive mansion. Complaints had been received from citizens that the sidewalks around the governor's home were impassable. Investigating, the police found that the whole family (except the governor) was in quarantine on account of measles, and the notice had to be telephoned to Mrs. Stubbs, who promised to try to get somebody by telephone to remove the snow.

Meanwhile, governor Stubbs himself remained in the east trying to work up the Roosevelt boom.

El Paso found out during the Panhandle convention that it was the real cat-tleman's home, and now it is going after the Texas association. If the Texans ever come once, Fort Worth will have the time of her life getting them back there.

### One-Sentence Philosophy

- REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.  
(New York Press.)  
A man's jealousy is his fear of himself.  
Money would last forever if it was a fierce pain.  
Nobody without some pepper in him is worth his salt.  
Owing money is the worst trouble for the man who lent it when he tried to get it back.  
There's no way so easy to get fooled as thinking a man who can look you straight in the eye will do other things straight.
- GLOBE SIGHTS.  
(Atlantic Globe.)  
A cook isn't apt to care much for eggs during cold weather.  
Don't make your wife wait for your funeral to get a buggy ride.  
Fortunately, only a few of the reformers write poetry about it.  
A good general rule is not to neglect your work to watch for opportunity.  
Some hesitate and are lost, while others lose themselves without any hesitation.  
It is hard to convince some women that a new set of furs won't keep their feet warm.

### UNCLE WALT'S DENATURED POEM

#### Hard Luck Stories

By Walt Mason.  
All my friends are sick and ailing and they come to me a-walling of their woes and tribulations just as though I was to blame; one is driven to a frenzy by a case of influenza, and some other dire disease thro' through his frame. One man Quickenbush is havin' trouble with a sprain and his ringleader's frame means him sorely when the weather's cool and wet, and old Quinny's frame means him every symptom of the glandulars, and it really rends my heartstrings when I see him fust and feel. One has got complaint catarrhal and he buys dope by the barrel and he'd have me stand and listen to the sickening details; one's broke out in reddish patches, one has got the itching scratches, one has got rheumatic jim-jams, one has got ingrowing nails. So they bore me with descriptions of their spasms and convulsions, and they don't give me a look in when I'd spring a private groan; little care I what befell them for I'm suffering to tell them all about the fifty-seven rare diseases of my own.

#### Fatal Resemblance

The Herald's Daily Short Story  
By FREDERICK IDLER.

HAVING passed my medical examination and being qualified to practice, I wanted to see something of the world, and for several years I was connected with a French hospital in Genoa.  
One night while walking home from a concert, I was forced by a sudden shower to seek shelter in the doorway of a small restaurant. It was probably the same reason that caused two others to enter the place a few minutes later, and though I could not see them because of the darkness, I could not help overhearing their conversation in the Italian language.  
"Is he still getting worse?" asked the voice of an old woman.  
"Yes, grandmother, he is dying very slowly. Today he wanted to send for a doctor, but it was not difficult to make him give it up. You know he has more faith in his own medicines than in doctors. How long will it be, grandmother, before he dies?"  
It was evidently a child talking, and there was something in the tone of her voice which made me listen against my will.  
"A couple of months, at the utmost," the old woman said. "In the meantime you must follow instructions carefully. I think the Lord has been raised her voice and I could feel that she raised her hand over her head."  
Somebody opened a door and I went out to get a drink of water. I was dripping, and the next day I thought no more of the incident.  
A few weeks later, while I was having lunch at a restaurant, I was entered and announced a visitor. It was a young Frenchman, and though he wore no hat, I immediately saw that he was the man who had been shown into my room, he said.  
"Doctor, I must ask you to come to Hotel de Londres," said the young man, M. Roland Lorraine. He has been growing worse during the last four months, but to save my life, I cannot tell what is the matter with him."  
Naturally I asked him to tell me something about M. Lorraine, and he replied that he was a country doctor of excellent family and very rich. Some time ago he had come to Italy to see his mother, who had been ill after his arrival he had been taken ill with a strange malady, or rather a rapidly increasing loss of strength. He also told me that his mother had little faith in doctors and preferred his own medicines, so that he had been without medical aid for some time. He said, however, the servant was afraid that he was seriously ill and had called to see me on his own responsibility.  
I immediately went to the hotel and found M. Lorraine at Hotel de Londres. He must have been a strong, handsome man, but now his face was thin, his color waxed and his whole body emaciated. My visit was quite unexpected, but he willingly gave himself into my care, and I examined him carefully.  
It puzzled me greatly, that I was not able to discover any symptoms of any particular disease. The only medicine he was taking and found it to be an absolutely harmless concoction of herbs, so I began to ask about those who attended him.  
"Have you no friends in Genoa, M. Lorraine?" I asked.  
"None at all," he replied. "I came here with my valet about six months ago, because I had some personal affairs to attend to. My mother had been taken sick they would surely have brought me in touch with some people, but I had no time for that. The change of air had affected me and I took some herbal tonics."  
"Then you have nobody to attend you?" I asked.  
"Yes, a small Italian girl, whom I met in a very romantic manner. I had seen her only once when she came and asked me if I could not take care of her services. She is only 12 years old, but I engaged her. She is a real treasure to have in the house."  
There was nothing suspicious about all this, so all I could do was to prescribe some tonic and promise to call again.  
The next morning, however, I was surprised by a visit from Jean, the valet.  
"Something strange happened last night, doctor," he said. "It is the little Maria who nurses my master and she has died."  
I immediately turned back. Something told me that Jean was in danger at this very moment. I sneaked up the stairs and as I opened the door noiselessly, I saw the little Italian girl bending over the sleeping man, holding in her hand a tiring stiletto. I was at her side in a moment and struck the knife from her hand. The noise awakened M. Lorraine.  
"You, Maria," he exclaimed, "whom I thought was my mother, whom I loved like a father, you have killed me!"  
"A father! A father who kills his wife and throws his daughter into the street!" I cried, and my mother's death, which she had tried to poison him and when I had prevailed that she had tried a quicker way."  
I explained her mistake to her and showed her the portrait telling her that her father had died a year ago. Lorraine had, she cried and sent us a glance full of hatred. "And I did not kill him!" Then she threw herself down on her knees as if to ask Lorraine to forgive her, and I picked up the stiletto and buried it in her heart, before any of us could prevent her.  
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The police made every attempt to discover Maria's grandmother, but she was never caught.  
THE END.

#### Call on Government to Act

There is no question as to the need for the welfare of Alaska is not controversial at the present time, however, for today there is a clear understanding of the principal interests to be protected and the people with an adequate government and to open the way for the development of its resources. All men interested in the development of Alaska are now calling to Uncle Sam to take action which will relieve present conditions and open the way for the future development of the land which it has been called the world's treasure house.

There are, it is agreed, three steps which this government must take to better conditions, namely, to give the people some measure of local self-government, to make of the transportation facilities and to provide some system of management for the coal fields, which are among the richest in the world. These three projects rank first as a matter of opinion, but that there must be some action on all three is a fact which is contended by all interested people.

Has Paid For itself Many Times.  
Alaska has produced enough gold and silver to pay for its purchase 15 times over. At the time it was taken over by the United States secretary Seward was criticized for negotiating its purchase for the country was called "Seward's folly," for many years. The territory is estimated to have as much coal as all the United States, and more copper than is contained in the "copper country" of both Michigan and Arizona, combined. The development of the coal fields is largely dependent on adequate transportation facilities, and transportation is dependent on the opening of the land which is the part of the government. Better transportation facilities will give Alaska the advantage of a coal and copper which will make it possible to develop much low grade ore which is now wasted, because it is not possible to smelt it properly.

For the improvement of transportation conditions, the plan generally agreed upon and finding favor with the administration and with the officers of the national conservation association, proposed for the construction of a government owned railroad.  
Secretary Fisher of the department of the interior and Gifford Pinchot, on behalf of the National Conservation association, have proposed a government owned railroad to run from the coast to the coal fields and thence to the rich agricultural valleys and stock ranges and beyond. With adequate transportation facilities and a system for the development and conservation of the natural resources, Alaska will have a chance to grow as rapidly as any other country where conditions are similar.

And in the provision for both the development of resources and improvement of transportation facilities, there is a general demand for quick action, more insistent than at any time since November 25, 1878, ten years after the purchase from Russia, when William Seward's "Seward's folly" was called into the literary life of London, but still the poverty hung to him. But he went on writing this and that book, getting a small when he could in a basement trip shop, knocking down any man who insulted him (and some did). Then on top of it all, a pension of the possible \$10,000 was offered him on top of the life.

And he hesitated to take it, wondering if he would thereby lose that independence of thought and action which he had always kept by him as his best possession. But his friends showed him that it would do himself great injustice not to accept it. And he did so. So for the rest of his life he had, at least common comfort. Oh, he did not spend all those pounds sterling upon himself. Any one who was poor could have a share, not only of the money, but of the house he lived in. And he had plenty of penitents, who not only took what he gave them, but grumbled at the accommodations. One day a man who was in danger of going to jail for debt sent for Samuel Johnson to help him out. He went and found his friend held up by the constable for non-payment of the rent to the landlady. Johnson gave his friend a guinea and asked him if he had any more of that kind of money. He said he had none, but that he would be glad to be sold to a publisher.

The poor author gave him a package and Johnson went off to sell it. And he did it in a story. And the name of it was the "Vicar of Wakefield," the poor gentleman who owed his landlady being no other than Oliver Goldsmith.

THE END.

### PEOPLE NO LONGER ATTRACTED BY THE MARVELOUS RICHES OF ALASKA

Northwest Territory Has Practically Quit Growing in Population and Remedy Is Sought by the Government.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 19.—The last census returns from Alaska brought out the rather startling information that the population of the great northwest territory is almost at a standstill, the increase for ten years falling below 500. With a land area of 585,854 square miles, or nearly one-fifth the size of all continental United States, the great peninsula which has been a possession of this country for nearly half a century has a population of less than 65,000 including both natives and whites.

People interested in this territory with its untold wealth of mineral, agricultural and forest resources are growing more and more impatient in demanding information about the conditions which are holding back development. For the first time since the territory was acquired, the government is replacing the flag of Russia, from which secretary Seward negotiated the Alaska purchase for \$7,200,000 there is real movement to get something done to assist in the development of Alaska. Congress is fairly awakened to the fact that the American people in the far northwest, and various measures have been proposed to improve conditions in the territory.

Alaska is richer in resources than many countries which are world powers today. It is in the same latitude as the countries of the Scandinavian peninsula—Sweden, Norway and Finland, which have a total population of 10,000,000. It has a much better climate than these countries, more arable land and has a much greater area than the three countries combined. The territory has not been developed like any one of these countries. In spite of its great resources and natural advantages, it has only 65,000 people. Cuba, the Philippines, Porto Rico and the Hawaiian Islands the United States has given careful attention to the development of the territory. Alaska, this country's oldest possession outside of the continental United States, has been neglected to the day of its purchase. Little consideration has been given either to the government or to the people of Alaska. It is proposed to regulate the development of its great natural resources. The indifference of the United States towards Alaska is a matter of national shame. It is proposed to regulate the development of its great natural resources. The indifference of the United States towards Alaska is a matter of national shame. It is proposed to regulate the development of its great natural resources.

Development of the rich mineral resources in line with a public policy to encourage thorough utilization, will bring thousands of settlers into Alaska each year, and with a contented population living under some kind of self-government, it is predicted that the country will attain the place it deserves among the places governed by the United States. Alaska has a climate which surprises the average person, especially if he has come from the east or the south, who visits the territory for the first time. Many think of Uncle Sam's northernmost possession as a land of perpetual snow with glaciers on every hand and icebergs in all the waters along the coast. The territory does have cold weather all the year through, but the snow is not so deep as in the part of the peninsula on the coast. The climate compares favorably with that of many parts of the United States. Until the last few years there has not been a full appreciation of the agricultural possibilities of the land, just what the varied products of the farms of this far northwest were shown at the Alaska-Yukon exposition three years ago, the hundreds of thousands of people who visited the exposition in Alaska were given a different idea of the country and its climate.

Letters to the Herald  
COUNTY TAX RATE.  
Weir, Kansas, March 14, 1912.  
Editor El Paso Herald:  
I saw in the Herald of March 11 a statement pertaining to the El Paso county tax levy. It was 48 1/2 cents per \$100, or 48 1/2 percent. On what valuation is that levy—full value or 80 percent?  
Thanking you for the trouble and information in advance,  
I remain respectfully yours,  
A. B. Evans.

Vest Pocket Essays  
ILLINOIS  
By George Fitch  
Author of "A Good Old Sinner"

ILLINOIS is nicknamed "The Sucker State," but did nothing to deserve the epithet, until its last senatorial election. It is a way station on the westward course of empire, the last stop before the Mississippi river, and in the last 100 years has succeeded in permanently detaining a population of 5,700,000 people, almost all of whom can point to some other part of the nation and say, fondly, "Grandfather came from there."

Illinois is printed in various colors on the map, but as a matter of fact, is a deep black state, with a ten-foot soil, which can raise 30-foot corn-stalks, and can put an industrious farmer into the automobile class in three crops. Since the recent political exposures, however, the state has been a blushing pink, ornamented with yellow spots and White and Browne outbreaks. Two generations ago, the state gave Lincoln, Grant, Logan and Douglas to the nation, but the statesman vein has been pinching out ever since.

Illinois is the third state in the union in population, wealth and manufactures; the first in railroads and agricultural products; the second in coal; the third in petroleum; the second in college attendance, and the first in production of beefsteaks and bacon. It is a long state, with a waist-line like that of our beloved president, and a backbone composed of the Illinois Central railroad. It reaches from the lower edge of the sunny south, and spring begins at Cairo before ice-cutting is over at Galena. This makes Illinois people vary greatly in temperament, customs, habits, politics, and thousands of northern Illinoisans who can find their way around Paris would not take a guide if they ventured below the middle of their own state.

Illinois is composed of two almost equal parts—Chicago and the rest of the state. Down state Illinois is speckled with pleasant little cities and large red barns, while Chicago attends almost exclusively to the task of swelling the state's population. The finest scenery in the state is at "Starved Rock"—a great eminence on the Illinois river, named in honor of the last people who starved in Illinois—over 200 years ago. (Copyright, 1912, by George Mathew Adams.)

### Abe Martin



Th' great trouble with runnin' a country newspaper seems t' be t' keep th' social dopper's an' court proceedin's separated. With all our perfect men an' women it's funny a couple o' 'em don't get married.

### 14 Years Ago Today

From The Herald Of This Date 1898

A. S. Greig has been appointed general superintendent of the White Oaks road.  
Paul Smith took out a license today to build a \$2500 residence on North Santa Fe street.  
Preparations for a special Easter program are being made at St. Clement's Episcopal church.  
An elderly Mexican was arrested at Ft. Hancock this morning on a charge of smuggling mesquite.  
A car of Chinamen passed through El Paso today enroute from San Francisco to Eagle Pass in bond.  
Rev. R. T. Hanks will be in town tomorrow from Abilene, Tex., to conduct a series of revival services.  
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All of the money for the entertainment of former governor Hogg and party was subscribed by the First National and the State National banks and members of the committee on entertainment.  
The plan was filed in the office of the county clerk today whereby A. M. Loomis transferred to C. H. Moran, head, lots 224 and 225 block 5, Michigan map for \$11,900. This is the northeast corner of Mesa avenue and San Antonio street.  
The paid and paper shop of August Huedinger, at 322 1-3 El Paso street was damaged by fire at 4 o'clock this morning. Mr. Huedinger was asleep in the rear of the shop when it caught fire but managed to get out quickly. The damage amounted to about \$900 on which there is \$500 insurance.  
The children of the kindergarten department of the public schools gave an entertainment this afternoon. Recitations and songs were given; there was instrumental music and there were several exhibits of their handwork. The audience was composed principally of laboring men interested in the building trades.

Texas led the Union last year in the erection of schoolhouses, averaging two daily at a total cost of over \$2,000,000.

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