VISIT TO ST. CLOUD REFORMATORY

Ninety-Five Per Cent of the Inmates Are Really Reformed : : : :

The authorities at the St. Cloud reformatory assert that 95 per cent of the boys sent there are reformed, and when it is recalled that these boys have already begun a career of crime, or they would not be there, and that they are between the ages of sixteen and thirty, this seems to be a pleasant showing. Surely if 95 per cent of those already started upon a career, apparently so certain to end in the penitentiary, are saved from such an end, and are stopped from further continuance upon the downward path which so often proves too slippery for ascent, there is good reason to be proud of the record, and probably most people will agree with the authorities in this matter.

So the youthful criminal who is committed to the reformatory may thank his lucky stars, for though of course he is under restraint, he has an opportunity to learn one of several good trades and of carrying on his schooling, if it has been neglected, to a degree of practical service that will prove useful in the future. He is removed from all his old temptations and from his former associates, and given once more a new start in life. He is set on his feet in a way that it was not his fortune to be before, probably. All this and more is proved, so the St. Cloud officials declare, by the fact that so large a percentage of the boys (there are no girls here) are never heard of again in a criminal way.

FRANK L. RANDALL,
Superintendent St. Cloud Reformatory.

Unprepossessing Buildings.

The buildings of the St. Cloud reformatory are too grim and stern looking to be really attractive, in a way similar, for example, to the buildings at Red Wing at the state training school. And the stonecutting yards, surrounded by high fences and eight small sentry houses, lend an even more grim and forbidding aspect to an institution which in reality holds many pleasant and profitable memories for the majority of those who, after spending a portion of their lives here, have left to go out into the world better and wiser men than when they first entered it, under the shadow of their first crime.

There are at present 174 boys, or rather young men, here, committed for various offenses, and the inmates are divided into three grades, not according to the seriousness of the crime which they have committed before they entered, but according to their behavior after they arrived at the institution. The boys are dressed according to these grades, and so the deportment of each individual, as estimated by those over him, can be judged from his attire. When they first come in they are dressed in a suit of blue clothing, and called second-grade boys, but when they have been perfect in conduct for five months after admission, and have shown no insubordination or shirking, they are raised to the first rank, and are called first-grade boys, and are dressed thereafter in gray. The unruly, insubordinate boy, or those who try to run away from the institution, are lowered a grade, and form the third-grade boys. These are dressed in red, a beautiful shade in itself, but not admired much by these particular boys. Both coat and trousers are of a brilliant, bright color, and this marks the boy to the attendants and to his companions as dangerous, and serves to make him a conspicuous object should he try to escape.

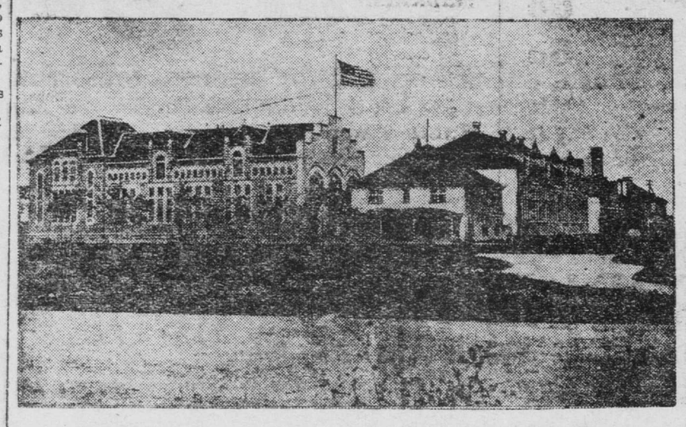
The first grade boy has many privileges given him that are denied the second and third grade inmate, for example his work is paid for at the rate of 12½ cents a day, while a second grade boy is allowed only 9 cents, and the third grade boys nothing. First grade boys are allowed the privilege of writing letters every Sunday, the second grade boy may write only every other Sunday, while the third grade boy may not write at all without special permission.

When Conversation Is Allowed.

Talking and writing, by the by, are regarded as privileges, and few things strike visitors so much when they first enter as the deadly stillness that prevails everywhere. Everything is done in strict silence, but on Sundays the blessed privilege of talking is granted and on Fourth of July, Christmas and New Year, and such other high holidays the same privilege is given, and the second and first grade boys on these days, if the weather permits, are turned into the smaller of the two yards surrounding the buildings, and encouraged to play baseball, or football, or any other game they please.

This idea of grading is carried out in all the life of the reformatory, and the system is rather one of increased privilege for good conduct than one of punishment for bad behavior. In the dining room, the seating capacity of which is more than double the present number of inmates, the tables are arranged so that the first grade sit in the front and the second grade in the rear, while the third grade boys must eat in their cells.

The day at the reformatory is very full, and is regularly laid out from the rising hour until bed time. At 6:30 the gong sounds and all must rise, then as the keepers express it, "the boys are switched out to breakfast," that is to say, the cells are unlocked so that the inmates may march out in order to breakfast. Even here in the dining room no conversation is permitted, and if any boy wishes more rations than he has been served with, he must ask for it in signs. If more bread is desired he holds up his hand; for potatoes his knife and for meat his fork, and all are allowed all they want to eat. For water the cup is held up and for coffee the cup and saucer.



CELL HOUSES AT MINNESOTA STATE REFORMATORY.

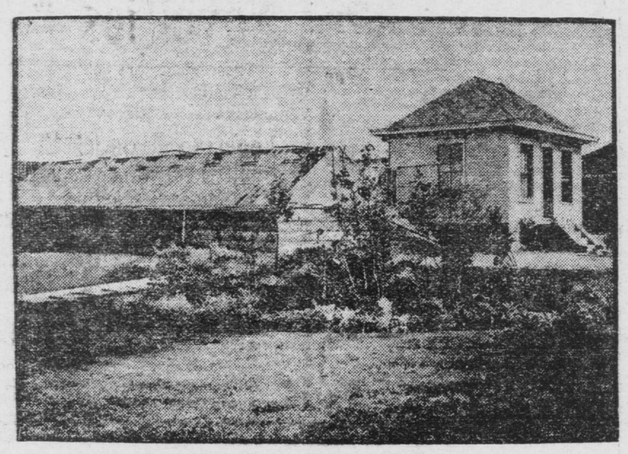
Drilled in Open Air.

About half an hour is allowed for breakfast, then, if the weather is fine, they are all marched out and drilled in the open air for about half an hour. After the drill is over, work in the shoe shop, the tailoring department, the stonecutting shop, or wherever the particular work of each boy lies, continues until 11:45, when the yare all marched in once more, this time for dinner. An hour is allowed before work is resumed, and then at 5 labor for the day is over, except for the farm boys, who have, of course, the ordinary work of attending to the stock, etc., as is necessary on all farms. Supper is eaten in the cells, and usually consists of coffee, bread, cheese, syrup, etc. After this, every other night, the boys march up to the school room, which is held in the dining room, and the intervening nights they study their lessons for the next evening. This is for boys who can read and write, but for those who are more backward six afternoons a week are devoted to school work, so that all the boys leaving there can read and write, if they never did before, and they have learned a good trade. These backward boys, some of whom can read and write in their own language, but are foreigners who cannot speak English, work in the industrial departments in the morning, and come to their school work in the afternoon. There are at present in this primary school department some twenty boys and young men.

As for the trades, a boy first coming in is put at one and another until that is found which best suits him, and the list is both long and varied for such an institution and comprises the following: Blacksmithing, electrical engineering, tinsmithing, plumbing, steamfitting, stonecutting, engineering, farming, tailoring, shoemaking, carpentering painting and glazing.

For those who desire to learn farming, there is a fine farm of 940 acres, where all the potatoes, hay and corn for the use of the institution is grown, and a number of stock animals, cows, beef creatures, horses, etc., is kept, so that nearly all served on the table is the product of the farm attached to the institution, excepting groceries in the strictest sense of the term. All the meat, the vegetables, the milk and the butter used are produced here, and the beef and pork is raised on the farm. Here at the reformatory the head of the agricultural department is a graduate of the state agricultural college, a thoroughly competent and scientific farmer. This is not the case on all the state farms, and the lack of such a person has caused frequent unfavorable comment as to the management of these farms. But here the boys who learn farming learn the proper rotation of crops and the various devices and improvements according to the latest scientific methods in use in modern agriculture.

Cooking and baking are done here by the inmates, and the boys are taught the latter as a trade. A large rotary oven is used, and some 125 loaves a day are baked, each loaf weighing two and a half points. All the laundry work is also done here, and the boys may take this up as a trade also, if they so desire, as the rooms are fitted in the modern way, and with machinery of the style used in the present laundries. In the printing office there is a hand press for job work, and the bills of fare for the week are printed here, and all the billheads, and also those disconcerting little books describing the appearance of those boys who have run away from the reformatory, or who have broken their parole. These books are sent out to all the chiefs of police, and frequently upset the best laid plans of the most astute boys, who think themselves well out of danger when they get outside the walls safely, but who, owing to these little descriptions, frequently find that their troubles have only begun.



GREENHOUSES AT REFORMATORY.

In the shoe shop about eight pairs of heavy shoes a day are made, though occasionally a finer pair is turned out, just to show what can be done in this line.

Good Tailor Shop There.

In one of the upper buildings is the store room, one end of which is used for the tailoring and repairing department, and the other for the groceries, etc. Three or four boys sit at the big, heavy tailoring machines and make or repair, as the case may be, while back of them sits another boy at a knitting machine, making a long, strong gray sock. The upper end of the room where the stores of coffee, tea, flour, etc., stand resembles nothing so much as a Hudson's Bay store, the mixture is so extraordinary, and the variety so great. Down on the side there is a long, polished counter, and on it a pair of scales, and here the steward measures out all that is required for the day, each department being required to make a regular requisition upon him for their needs.

A little to one side is the drug store, with a supply of ordinary drugs and medical supplies, and under the charge of a regular chemist. Throughout this account these inmates have been spoken of as boys, and thus everyone connected with the institution speaks of them, but in reality the age of admittance is from sixteen to thirty. Practically these are not boys, but youths and young men.

The buildings all together are nine in number, the farm house and three large barns, the central or administration building, two cell houses, and the houses of the superintendent and the principal keeper. Over at the farm there are 250 head of cattle and about 100 hogs.

The institution is not without pets, and a handsome arctic owl, in one of the entrances to the buildings, and a squirrel in a unique castellated tin mansion, seem to enjoy life as well here as out in the wide world. One of the greatest attractions in a not very attractive institution, is the greenhouses, of which there are three, the first devoted to raising early vegetables, such as radishes and lettuce, the second to roses, and the third to palms. This is under the charge of an experienced gardener, and is yet another vocation which the boys can take up if they so wish. All the floors on the lower story are stone flagged, made from stone cut from the quarry here, and the store room itself was built by the labor of the boys from stone cut and dressed here, at the institution.

The cell rooms are arranged in galleries, of which at present eleven are occupied, and each cell contains a bed, a washstand, chair, etc., and the furniture of course is meager; beside this there are eight solitary cells for the very refractory, and these are lighted from above and by transoms, and invariably prove efficacious even with the most hardened.

After a boy has completed his sentence in the reformatory, he is discharged, but under parole, and must keep the authorities advised of his whereabouts and his way of life until he receives his final discharge. Some times it is considered advisable to keep a boy under surveillance for a longer period than the usual six months, and he must then report for whatever period may be set.

Paid When They Leave.

The money or wages which they have earned while undergoing sentence is kept for them until they leave the institution, when one-half only is paid over to them, and only when they receive their final release is the balance given them. But should they run away during their term at the reformatory, or break their parole, then they forfeit this money, which returns to the state which paid them for their work. Eight hours constitutes here, as elsewhere, a days' labor.

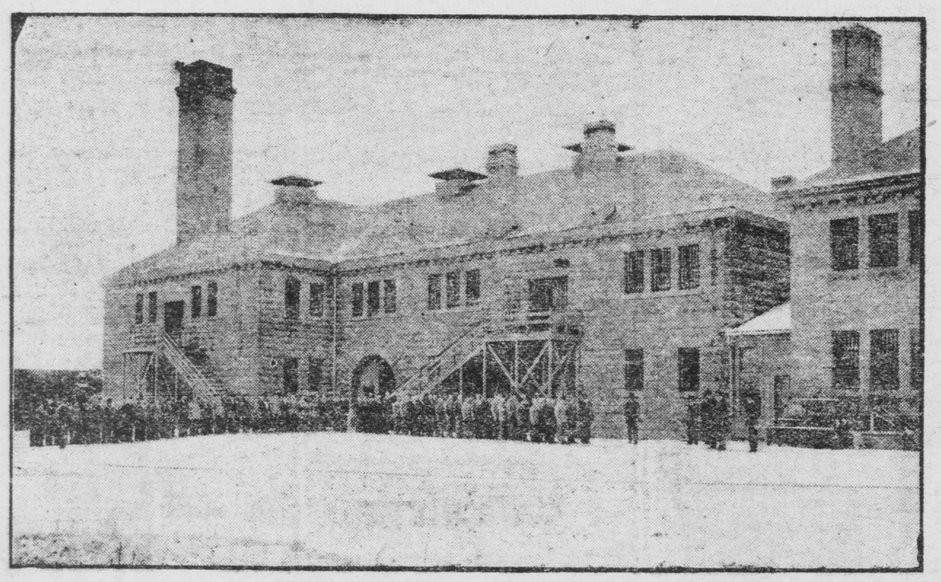
The reformatory is not a very old institution, having been established in 1887 only, and it was at first designed for a second state prison, then it was decided to use it for a correctional institution for first offenders of a youthful age, an institution intermediary between the state prison and the state training school at Red Wing.

As to the reasons as to why the reformatory reforms, the authorities offer several logical explanations, grounded on the following arguments:

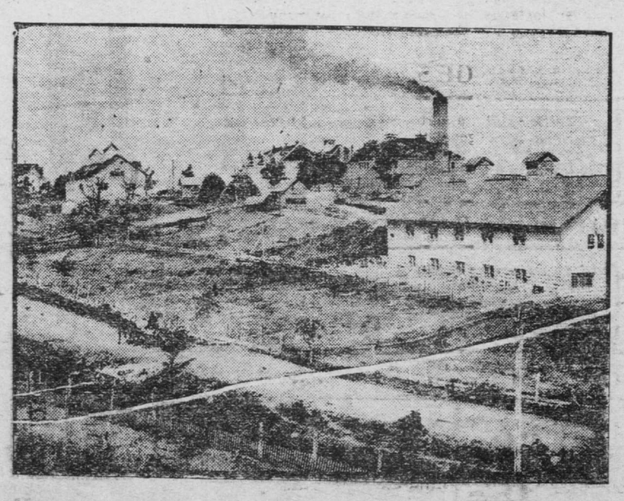
First, most of the boys sent here have come to such a state, or, rather, such a stage, in their careers through idleness, or drink. They are boys who have not, as a rule, been required to work at home, or to do anything. They are densely ignorant and have no trade or regular method of livelihood, and have thus fallen into idle habits and become accustomed to associate with the idle and the dissolute. But their detention here, lasting, as it usually does, for two or three years, at the least, breaks up the old associations, and their former companions have probably many of them drifted away. The drinking and cigarette smoking habits have been broken off, and, above all, they have learned self-control and discipline, and have a first-class means of livelihood furnished them in a trade, for they are now no longer the unskilled laborer looking for the easiest work and obtaining hard labor at low prices, but the skilled mechanic, the stonecutter, the printer, or the electrical engineer.

The numerous letters written to the officers of the institution by boys who have left it, and become self-supporting and self-respecting citizens, show how many erring boys have been set in the straight path again.

The present superintendent is Frank L. Randall, under whom the institution is yearly proving its usefulness.



MORNING DRILL AT THE REFORMATORY.



BARN, BOILER HOUSE, ENGIN E ROOM AND OFFICERS' HOUSE, ST. CLOUD REFORMATORY.

WOMAN AND THE STAGE.

Miss Phoebe Davies, a popular and successful actress, is not of those of her profession who warn young women to shun the boards. She is of the opinion that no calling offers greater opportunities for the ambitious to acquire both fame and fortune. She thinks it is only in the theater that a woman works out her own career and can posibly mount to a plane on a level with that occupied by man. "Women in other professions are all looked upon with a degree of patronizing disdain," she says. "But no one makes allowances for the actress. She stands on her own merits and ability, and if she succeeds she is as thoroughly accredited as is her rival of the other sex. Charlotte Cushman, Ristori, Duse—who thinks the less of them because they wear skirts rather than the sock and buskin? I strongly advise talented girls to enter the theatrical profession!"

And now hear what that fine actress, Mme. Janauschek, says on the same question. When a talented young girl once went to her for advice on this very point, she looked her over and then sighed. "What can you do, my dear? Are you able to cook, to sew, to sweep? If so, do it. Anything is preferable to the slavery of the stage. One woman in a thousand can attain to more, and she will have ten years of success, perhaps less, and then—well, the rest is silence!" —Chicago Chronicle.

TOO PRECOCIOUS ALTOGETHER.

He was a toddler who had been greatly interested in building operations near his home. Shortly before Christmas he had told his mother of his ambition to drive a cart when he became a man. His sole demand on Santa Claus, he said in his baby way, would be a toy horse and cart.

Sure enough, at 5 o'clock on Christmas morning he found two horses—a bay and a black—champing their oats in stalls beside the fireplace. Each was nearly two feet high, and beside the stalls stood a perfect miniature of the carts which little John had seen hauling dirt from the excavation a block away.

Then, as if wonders would never cease, propped up against the wall, stood a wonderful doll. He was dressed in overalls, wore boots and a cap and looked as if he had just been aroused to hitch up his horses to begin work.

Little John's father was listening and heard the boy exclaim that the horses were "just like Jim and Jack." Then the toddler turned to his man-doll and said in imitation of the foreman down the street:

"Here, me man, watch dem dad blasted horses. Come, quick, or I'll knock your gol danged head off, blank ye. I want to go and see papa."

The father concluded that little John was succeeding too well in becoming like his chums who hauled dirt.

THE NURSERY RHYMES.

This is my wife beside me,
Her babe lies on her knee;
This is the hearth-fire of my dreams,
This is my own root-tree.

The mother leans above the child, kissing
its dimpled feet, and then
She sings a curious nursery rhyme: "My
man, my little man of men

Must shut his eyes and go to sleep, and
grow up brave and tall and strong;
And be St. Michael or St. George, to
help the wronged and crush the
wrong."

I am no Michael or St. George, nor would
I teach my son to be;
To smite the foeman in our path is task
enough for mine and me.

That which the world calls good I praise;
I love its power, I love its pelf
And all that cunning brain can win for
wife, or child, or friend, or self.

The firelight flames. The mother sings.
There comes a sudden sense of fear,
Dismay and heartache. Lost and far
seems that I thought my own, and
near.

"Dearest!" I cry, across the gulf. My
dearest lifts her gentle eyes,
And lays her finger on her lip, and looks
at me in mute surprise.

The firelight fades. The infant sleeps,
The mother sings her little song;
"And be St. Michael or St. George, to
helped the wronged and crush the
wrong."

This is my wife beside me,
Her babe lies on her knee;
This is the hearth-fire of my dreams,
This is my own root-tree.
—Harriet Boyer.

Knew by Experience.

Clara—Young Galloway seems awfully tickled with his new mustache.

Maude—So he is; but—er—there are others.

RHEUMATISM!

$2.00 FOR ONE MONTH'S TREATMENT.
WORLD'S GREATEST CURE FOR $2.00 PER BOTTLE.

Is a Guaranteed Cure Worth $2 a Bottle?
It OUGHT To Be--It Is.

Kendrick's Rheumatic Specific

is sold in bottles containing sufficient of the remedy for one month's treatment. It is put up and sold under a POSITIVE GUARANTEE TO RELIEVE after one bottle is taken, and to CURE if persisted in. SOME cases are cured by LESS than one bottle. KENDRICK'S RHEUMATIC SPECIFIC cures rheumatism—nothing else. It has cured hundreds of St. Paul people whose testimonials are on file at our office. We quote only two, which are fair samples of the hundreds received.

SUFFERED FOUR YEARS.

Mrs. Nagle was confined to the house and compelled to use a cane. One case which shows the efficacy of the Specific in deep-seated cases.

Mrs. Nagle, who lives at 264 Duke street, says that for four years she has suffered so that she was unable to walk about the house except with a cane. For ten months just preceding her trial of the remedy she never left the house, but after the use of one bottle she discarded the cane, and attends to all her household duties and walks as well as ever. She considers herself to be perfectly free from rheumatism.

REMEMBER If you are dissatisfied with the results of our medicine, after a fair trial, come to us and get your money back.

JAS. J. NUGENT

Of the St. Paul Salvage Corps (315 Robert St.) A very bad case and a wonderful recovery.

St. Paul, Jan. 31, 1902.
Kendrick Chemical Co., St. Paul, Minn.

Gentlemen: I wish to say that after using every kind of Rheumatic Medicine I heard of without being cured, I got a bottle of your Rheumatic Specific, and while I have only used one-third of it, I am entirely relieved. This certainly is a wonderful medicine as I had been confined to my house and bed from Oct. 14, 1901, to Jan. 14, 1902, and I started to use your medicine before I was really strong enough to walk.

Refer any one to me that you please and I will tell them what good it done me.

I remain, yours very truly,
JAS. J. NUGENT,
315 Robert St. (Salvage Corps),
St. Paul, Minn.

Kendrick Chemical Co. Kendrick Bldg., 27 East Seventh Street, St. Paul.

MAIL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

Red Tape In Municipal Offices.

Buying and Paying for a Broom Involves Endless Amount of Labor.

"It's a good thing all my customers are not municipalities," remarked the small dealer, as he scanned his credit book and frowned, while from a shelf above he jerked down a ledger and thumbed its pages for the leaf bearing the title, "City of St. Paul." "One gross of matches, bought six weeks ago, and not paid for yet," he grumbled, as he threw the book back on its shelf with savage energy. "All right, but —— slow pay," was the parting remark.

"Slow as the wrath of God" was another remark by a creditor, who shoved his face in at the wicket in the city treasurer's office and wanted to know if St. Paul was ever going to pay that bill.

He wasn't aware that St. Paul is jealous of its strong box, and surrounds it with more safeguards in the shape of "red tape" than any other city of its size in the Union.

St. Paul last year turned into the channels of trade as a municipality over $2,000,000, but not one cent of the amount left the city's coffers until a score or more of clerks and officials passed on the correctness of the claims which the money was used in satisfying. The ordinary big corporation would have frowned down on some of this critical inspection as useless and expensive red tape, but the charter demanded such proceedings, and it had to be carried out to the letter. The small business man would have called it pure nonsense.

Ordinarily, St. Paul requires a month in which to determine the correctness and pass upon the legality of claims for all supplies purchased by its servant before the holder of the same is reimbursed; but in the case of some of the departments this period is increased to six and eight weeks. Sometimes a still greater time elapses before accounts are finally squared. In this respect the fire department heads the list, because of the fact that its request for supplies and the final payment of the bill presented, encounters more red tape and passes through more hands than any other individual department composing the city government.

How a Broom Is Bought.

Should a 25-cent broom be wanted for any of the engine houses, the captain in charge makes known his wants to his superior, who in turn conveys the request to the attention of the fire board the first time it meets. That body passes upon the necessity and cost of the article wanted and if convinced that it is needed, duly orders the secretary to prepare the proper requisition.

For this purpose the city clerk furnishes a properly worded blank, which, after being engrossed with the title of the department desiring the broom, is filled out with the name of the article wanted and the cost. If the cost is in doubt, approximate figures are given. This requisition, with others of similar import and representing nearly every department in the city, is filed away to await inspection by the committees on requisitions of both bodies. Each tackles the job separately and applies its O. K.

This procedure completed, the officer making the request is sufficiently armed with authority to make the purchase and be forthwith, on receiving the broom demands an itemized bill, which is filed with the secretary of the fire board. This invoice is refiled with the monthly list of bills and when the board again meets it is inquired into, passed upon and ordered paid. If there is any doubt as to the validity of the claim it is held up and an inquiry sent along the line until the party making the request is located, the necessary questions asked and an investigation made.

By this time the perusal of the bill has only begun, and when it is again located it is found attached to a blank in the city clerk's office, containing complete memoranda as to the transaction. With others of its kind, it passes into the hands of the committee on claims of the two council bodies, where, after receiving the official signature of the chairman of each committee, it is sent down to the watch dog of the treasury, Comptroller McCardy, to prepare an audited resolution calling for its payment. If he sees fit to obey, the bill attached to this audited resolution, in the course of time, reaches the board of aldermen and the assembly, who attest to its correctness as individual bodies and order it paid. After receiving the signature of the mayor and being published in the official paper, the city clerk again tries his hand, and after entering it on what is known as the audited claim book, proceeds to make out a check. This check, with hundreds of others, goes to the mayor for his signature. Comptroller McCardy then compares it with the original bill in his possession and it is then returned to the city clerk for delivery.

Its Last Journey.

This check for 25 cents is now on its last journey, and the clerk, after sending a postal card to the payee, notifying him that his money is ready, patiently waits for his appearance. The presentation of the postal card and the signing of a stub releases the check, and armed with it the wicket at the city treasurer's office is approached. A clerk, supplied with a rubber stamp, affixes the name of the bank at which it is payable, and the affair is closed. The bank pays the 25 cents on presentation of the check.

The curtain is finally rung down on a minute description of the transaction in the city's books and the filing of the several filled blanks in the vault of the comptroller.

This is simply an outline of the precautions that are taken when supplies are to be purchased and the bills paid, but it does not include the countless holdups and the very frequent failures of the council to approve or the comptroller to indorse. Here the courts are appealed to and the matter drags along for months before the waiting creditor is paid or his claim legally turned down.

Every department and official in the city has his quota of red tape, as set forth for his guidance by the charter, and in financial matters it is observed to the letter.

PROMISED THEM LIBERTY.

Brig. Gen. Anderson Is Said to Have Done So to Filipinos.

Senator Hoar asserts that he has seen his signed statement admitting that while in command of the American forces in the Philippines he made such a promise to Aguinaldo.

Practical Drama.

"You say you want a tragedy in which the star dies before the last act!"

"That's what I want," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "It's more likely to make money for me."

"I have not observed that such plays are especially popular."

"Perhaps not. But they give the star a chance to get around to the box office and watch the treasurer count up."—Washington Evening Star.

Burlington Route

Hot Springs, Ark.

Only One Change of Cars.

Tourist Tickets on Sale Daily.

Ticket Offices—400 ROBERT ST. (Hotel Ryan), ST. PAUL; 414 NICOLLET AVE., MINNEAPOLIS.