The St. Paul Globe

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1905

A FORM OF MADNESS

The terrific crash involving Mr. Bigelow, formerly president of the First National bank of Milwaukee, in a defalcation of $1,500,000 is one of those incidents that can scarcely be explained on any other basis than a belief in the man's insanity. By this we do not mean that he was irresponsible, or that he should not pay to the utmost the penalty of his act. What we do mean is that an idea, a passion, a mania had taken such hold upon him that it obscured everything else and dethroned both reason and conscience.

We are familiar with the man who gets into bad company, acquires bad habits, loads up with debts incurred for various forms of dissipation and steals money to continue the gratification of his appetites. Here was a man, apparently of irreproachable habits, a man of large wealth and high standing in the community, who deliberately plunged himself into the deepest pit that waited. He sacrificed fortune, reputation, personal comfort, and is today a disgraced criminal waiting only the formal proceedings that consign him to a prison cell. He did not even attempt to escape the consequences of his act, but made a clean breast of it and gave himself up.

It is cases like this which show us that they are right who claim that the passion for gambling is the most irresistible of all those to which humanity is subject. This man squandered the great sums that he stole in speculation. He began in the usual way by using small sums of the bank's money for dealings in stocks. Then he plunged in the wheat market, and ever as his losses increased he drew more and more heavily from the money confided to his care. When at last he saw that restitution had become impossible, he abandoned the game and made his confession.

Now there can be no other explanation of this than such a possession by the mania for gambling as amounts to virtual insanity. This man did not need more money. He had all that anyone could enjoy. He had a fine home, all the comforts and luxuries that reason could ask, and additions to his wealth could give him nothing really worth having. Yet he branched out, became a promoter, speculated in this direction and that and sacrificed all that men commonly hold most dear for a success which, if it came, could bring to him nothing but a few useless millions. Even in our day of big measures and reckless extravagance, the sight of a man who actually has $300,000 of his own to turn over to his creditors destroying his career and his reputation and making himself a common thief in the hope that he might make more money is one for the madhouse.

He who writes the history of our time in some later and saner age will find its most inexplicable feature in this desire to add million to million, to heap up riches which none shall gather. Reason can appreciate the desire of a man to accumulate a competence wholly adequate to his comfort for life and that of those whom he leaves behind him. Reason can account for the constant and laborious activity of men engaged in great enterprises that bring great fortunes. Here it is not the money, but the doing of great things, the working out of a plan, the forcing of events that constitute the attraction. The money profit is merely an unregarded incident and not a motive. But there is prevailing throughout the country today a mad thirst for mere wealth as wealth, a desire to heap together a pile of coins bigger than any other man's, which is not only unworthy as an impulse but as foolish and as purposeless in itself as the games of little childen who gather sticks and stones into meaningless piles and then scatter them.

Something like this was probably at the back of Bigelow's fall. The way for it was made easy by the existence of the great gambling institutions where fortunes rise and fall every day, partly at the beck of chance and partly at the direction of the great manipulators who control the exchanges. Surely it is a curious and futile thing that municipal governments all over this country give their attention to the gambling evil, pass ordinances, raid establishments and inflict punishments upon offenders, while gambling on the hugest scale goes on openly and daily under an honorable name, sucking fortunes and reputations and lives into its remorseless vortex. The startling exposure in Milwaukee is written all over with great and eloquent morals. They are are so plain, however, that, if our people had not already read them, an event like this, though crushing in effect and sensational in magnitude, can give to them no greater force.

Those Russian reporters who are on a strike for six kopecks per line for writing are entitled to the money if they can spell the language.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

When Mayor Dunne was elected in Chicago on a platform that declared for municipal ownership of the traction lines, the Chicago Tribune sent a reporter to Glasgow to investigate the conditions under which public ownership of civic utilities has been so eminently successful. "Raymond," the reporter, has made prompt return. He points out the conditions in Glasgow, says that public ownership is a success—then adds that the operation of the same utilities by the city of Chicago must inevitably prove a failure.

In Glasgow, we are told, there is a graded scale of prices for street car travel. The city covers a very small area and a passenger may ride a mile in any direction for one cent. But if he would travel six miles he is charged six cents. As most of the population lives within a very short distance of the business center the cost of transportation falls lightly on the average individual. The traffic is enormous within a circumscribed area, but very light outside of that area. The pay of the tramway employes is about half that paid in Chicago. The balance sheet always, therefore, looks well to the taxpayer. There is no money wasted. As partisan politics is unknown in municipal elections in Glasgow, there is no graft, because only the individual grafter is elected to office and he is not strong enough to do much harm. The city gets all that is coming to it from the earnings of the traction company and has a surplus.

The application of the same conditions to Chicago would make the burden that Mayor Dunne has taken up light indeed, but he has to contend with a state of affairs totally different. The passenger must be put down for a long haul at a maximum charge of five cents for any distance. The trainmen and other employes will most assuredly get quite as much pay as they have been receiving in the past—perhaps more, for they will form a large and important body of voters who will be carefully looked after by the political bosses. And the grafter will continue to be at least as imminent in the affairs of the city as he is today.

The most casual examination of the facts in Glasgow makes it clear that Mayor Dunne will have to look elsewhere for light and encouragement in his undertaking of establishing municipal ownership of the traction lines in the lake city.

Perhaps Jacob lifted up his voice and wept because his prophetic soul told him that Mr. Schiff was going to be named after him.

A GOOD ROADS TRAIN

The federal government will spend no money more worthily than that given to practical demonstrations in the matter of good road building. The railroad companies which have cooperated and contributed so handsomely to the dispatch of a good roads train from coast to coast as a part of the Portland exposition are entitled to the highest praise. It would be worth a thousand times its cost if such a demonstration on wheels were kept constantly moving from one part of the country to the other, to give to the people a definite, practical idea of their needs and the way in which these may be satisfied.

The good roads question is practically altogether a matter of public education. If the people in our country districts knew what good roads meant, how they can be obtained and what would be their actual financial value, they would with one accord place the building of modern improved highways before everything else. Every legislature would be set to work passing the necessary laws and making proper appropriations, and a few years would find not only the face of our country but the conditions of rural life and rural prosperity revolutionized. It is because they do not know and are so slow in learning that the good roads cause creeps instead of running.

The best educator is that which demonstrates to the eye. A good roads train, carrying all the machinery and materials for road making, ready to stop at any point and give a practical exhibition of the work, accompanied by men who understand it thoroughly and are ready to show the farmer what can be done for him and how vastly he will profit by it, is worth a dozen institutes and a million articles in the newspapers. Let us keep at the good work until we get good roads, because the people insist on having them.

The disposition on the part of the boarding house keeper to put forth the belief that strawberries cause rheumatism becomes less pronounced as the season advances, and may be expected to disappear entirely by the time berries reach the price of hay.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

It is strange how little discussion one hears, as compared with a few years ago, of the business outlook and the fate of prosperity. Apparently the public has settled down into a condition of complete confidence or utter indifference. As it cannot be the latter, it must be the former. This is actually the case. There is a serene belief on the part of everybody that the country is jogging along comfortably, and that there are no bogies in the road. This seems to be justified by the facts.

General trade conditions are uniformly satisfactory. There are no alarming failures and the demand continues good. The settling of political conditions for some time to come has enabled business to plan for the future without fear of serious disturbance. It is true that there is in the sky the great menace of unwise legislation affecting railroads, which would certainly precipitate a terrible revulsion. The country as a whole, however, believes that the agitators will not be allowed to have their way at a cost so terrible, and is not so apprehensive.

Industry everywhere is settling down comfortably to the new conditions. The feverish period in which great combinations were being formed every day has yielded to a time of calm. A portion of this consolidation, being justified economically and contributing to the work of the world, is stable. Another part of it, constituting the mere wildcat element, has been weeded out. At the cost of much loss to the innocent and the collapse of a few bubble fortunes, these enterprises have gone the way of the unfit. A third portion, framed for monopoly and not for public service, is now being dealt with by the courts. The prospect of any large future disturbance in this field is poor.

Looking to the great basis of all our industries, the soil, the prospect is excellent. Crop reports from all sections are most encouraging. It is a quite general rule that an early spring is especially favorable to a big yield of all farm products. When the seed gets into the ground early, it matures early. This means less danger from drought, from frost, from all the enemies that destroy prospective wealth. The grain that gets an early start is most vigorous and best able to resist all unfavorable conditions. The season of 1905 opened among the earliest in our history. As far as the northwest is concerned, crop conditions could hardly be better at this date, and the rest of the country gives equally encouraging reports.

No intelligent man looks nowadays to the fluctuations of the markets, that is to say of the great exchanges, as an index of anything affecting seriously the basic industries or permanent prosperity of the country. A rash young man has been trying to corner wheat, and the price, under the influence of that movement and the great shortage of last year, sailed skyward. He could not carry his deal through, and of course with its collapse there came a corresponding fall. Neither one movement or the other counts in permanent effect. The same is true of the fluctuations of stocks, that go up or down according to the pleasure of speculators or the rumor that happens to find credence for the day. The underlying fact is that all legitimate industry, with very rare exceptions, is in flourishing condition, that there is abundant employment for labor at good wages and that business can, for the present at least, look forward without fear.

Maybe the preacher who said that it is "beginning to be a kind of wickedness to desire to go to heaven" is under the impression that the people who have heard him preach funeral sermons believe what he said of the state of bliss of the deceased.

The pernicious activity of the country legislator in legislating adversely to the interests of the great cities is being beautifully illustrated in Illinois. A law is about to pass which will practically destroy the policy industry of Chicago.

At this juncture we miss the Chamber of Commerce. If that estimable institution were still in existence it would only be necessary to refer the whole question of an auditorium to it and—forget it.

Down in Missouri, where the public taste demands that "Rip Van Winkle" be given with two Rips and a brace of Schneiders, the death of Joseph Jefferson will pass practically unnoticed.

Contemporary Comment

The Real Person of Importance

Taft is a big man and Shonts is a big man, but neither of them can expect to cut much of a figure in the public's estimation now that the pitcher who is able to control the "spit" ball is operating in the box.—Chicago Record-Herald.

That Is No Pink Tea Excursion

Secretary Loeb has taken some papers to the president's camp to be signed. If he forgot to take pen and ink, no matter. They would be signed with the point of a knife dipped in bear's blood.—Omaha World-Herald.

A Bunch of Rulers

Rayal Society Note—J. Pierpont Morgan, American financial king, and Nelson W. Aldrich, king of the United States senate, called on the king of Italy, in Rome, yesterday.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

George Should Think It Over

George Bernard Shaw declares that "children are the great destroyers of home life." Such an assertion creates a strong suspicion that his birth was a broad mistake.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Will Be a Thrilling Performance

When the president gets back it would be interesting to watch the process of transferring the lid from Taft to Roosevelt without letting any of the animals get out.—Birmingham News.

Charles Is Level Headed

Under the capable management of Poo Bah Taft, the government at Washington still lives. It isn't a case of when the president's away, the devil's to pay.—Anaconda Standard.

Publicity Assured

The president will send out no reports of his hunting exploits while in Colorado, but he will be able to read all about them just the same.—Washington Post.

Could Bury the Victim

Secretary Shaw has an ex-grave digger for coachman. Come to think of it, it would be handy to have an expert grave digger for a chauffeur.—Chicago Journal.

But He Has Lots More in Stock

The news of 600 desertions from his fleet doubtless caused Admiral Evans to relieve himself of about that number of three em dashes.—Denver Republican.

Can Deliver the Goods

Ten thousand mules will be needed for work on the Panama canal. Here is where Missouri smiles a proud, possessive smile.—New York Commercial.

Beware of His Lace Curtains

Eminent physicians assert that whiskers are the natural lodgings of deadly germs. Girls, this is a hint worth heeding.—New York Herald.

Wasn't That Just Too Lovely

Mr. Bryan greeted Mayor Dunne as the "western conqueror" and Mayor Dunne called William J. "the idol of his party."—Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

Another Vile Conspiracy

If the youth of Indiana is to be deprived of its soothing cigarette where will it get the material for future historical novels?—Chicago News.

More High Finance

Cash six checks and send back two when things begin to hum—How much is that? It's up to you, for I can't do this sum!—New York Herald.

What a Coach He Would Make

If Washington will induce President Roosevelt to become an active member of its baseball nine its luck may change.—Atlanta Constitution.

Some Big Game at Home

To T. R., Wildcat Woods, Ariz.: Come home at once; I did not want to trouble you, but Taft is off "the lid!"—New York Herald.

An Opening for Rockefeller

The government will need all the tainted money it can get hold of in the next few years for the Panama canal.—New York Commercial.

Would Like to Meet Togo

And, to do him justice, it is fair to note that Rojestvensky is neither running away nor keeping out of the way.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Not if Theodore Knows It

Judge D-Cady Herrick says we are drifting toward a "Little Father" in Washington. Little?—New York Telegram.

Monroe and Morocco

Germany and France have about agreed on a Monroe doctrine for Morocco.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Castro as Ajax

Castro makes a very good vaudeville Ajax defying the lightning.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

TODAY'S WEATHER

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Forecast:

Minnesota—Fair Wednesday and Thursday, light variable winds, becoming southeast.

Upper Michigan—Fair Wednesday, except rain in south portion; Thursday fair and warmer, fresh east to northeast winds.

Iowa—Showers and thunderstorms Wednesday; Thursday fair, warmer.

Wisconsin—Rain Wednesday; Thursday fair, northeast to east winds increasing.

North Dakota—Fair Wednesday, colder in northwest portion; Thursday fair, colder.

South Dakota—Fair and warmer Wednesday; Thursday fair and colder.

Montana—Fair and colder Wednesday; Thursday fair, colder in southeast portion.

St. Paul—Observations taken yesterday by the United States weather bureau, W. E. Oliver, observer, for the twenty-four hours ended at 7 o'clock last night (barometer corrected for temperature and elevation): Barometer, 29.95; relative humidity, 38; weather, cloudy; maximum temperature, 69; minimum temperature, 48; daily range, 21; mean temperature, 58; 7 p. m. temperature, 68; wind at 7 p. m., southeast; precipitattion 0.

Yesterday's temperature at other points:

	*8pm	High		*8pm	High
Alpena	44	54	Los Angeles	60	66
Bismarck	66	70	Madison	52	60
Buffalo	46	54	Marquette	52	66
Boston	60	64	Memphis	70	72
Chicago	48	52	Medicine Hat	79	80
Cincinnati	66	70	Milwaukee	44	52
Cleveland	54	54	Minnedosa	70	76
Denver	48	50	Montreal	48	56
Des Moines	54	56	New Orleans	76	84
Detroit	56	64	New York	62	66
Duluth	64	70	Omaha	52	52
El Paso	74	78	San Francisco	60	62
Escanaba	50	52	St. Louis	62	64
Galveston	72	78	Salt Lake	66	68
Grand Rapids	62	66	San Antonio	82	84
Green Bay	58	66	San Diego	60	64
Havre	76	80	S. Ste. Marie	54	64
Helena	66	68	Washington	66	74
Huron	62	66	Winnipeg	66	76
Jacksonville	70	76			

*Washington time (7 p. m. St. Paul).

River Bulletin—8 a. m.

Stations.	Danger Line.	Gauge Reading.	Change in 24 hours.
St. Paul	14	4.0	—0.2
La Crosse	19	5.0	—0.2
Davenport	15	7.6	—0.4
St. Louis	30	14.0	....

—Fall.

River Forecast—The Mississippi river at St. Paul will fall slightly.

What the Editors Say

It is an unfortunate thing for the Republican party of Minnesota that there was a sufficient number of small potato politicians in the legislature to pass the Horton bill over Gov. Johnson's veto. How our representatives are going to explain their votes on this matter is a mystery; but they will probably try to tell us a whole lot of stuff about the building not being completed, etc. That will hardly wash down, however. The intent of the measure is simply to take away from Gov. Johnson a few minor appointments which he did not care for. The Republicans in the legislature have done one thing that they did not intend. They have made John A. Johnson the most popular man in the state of Minnesota, and furthermore, have made him the next governor if he chooses to be a candidate.—Dawson Sentinel.

"Women are far less graceful than men, have a poorer anatomical mechanism and skirts are chiefly useful to hide the ugly angles at the female knees," said Dr. H. W. Arnold, director of the New Haven normal school of gymnastics at the convention of the American Physical Education association recently held there.

The cultured doctor probably means well, and what he says may be true of Boston and New York women. However if he will accept an invitation to spend his summer vacation in the Red river valley and agree to keep his weather eye open, he will return to New York accompanied by the pangs of a shattered pet theory. The "angles" are not in evidence here.—Crookston Times.

The Minnesota legislature closed its session Tuesday noon. It was subject to a great deal of criticism, but after all we believe it did as well as the average legislature does. No new reforms were instituted and not as many new pap suckers were created as might have been expected. The demurrage bill was killed, but a new railroad rate bill was passed—and—that's about all.—Gary Graphic.

W. E. Verity, editor of the Wadena Tribune and keeper of the committee room during the session of the last legislature has been elected as president of the state Republican league. The object of this association has not been made public, but it is thought that it is an organization to prosecute those who bolted the head of the ticket last fall.—Detroit Standard.

We are at present devising ways and means for the organization of a new religion. Not that we especially need more religion, but we anticipate pleasure in refusing a $100,000 Rockefeller donation.—Jackson County Pilot.

President Roosevelt's situation is one to bring unadulterated delight. Between his mountain retreat and the politicians is a snow blockade and a cordon of grizzly bears. Mr. Roosevelt is the first president that has ever planned successful isolation.—Sioux Falls Daily Press.

The St. Paul Globe of Sunday, in a thoughtful article on the value of good teachers for the public schools, pays the normal schools the merited compliment of being the most valuable institutions the state has for the training and general equipment of good teachers.—Winona Republican and Herald.

It is all over with the legislature and the same should be true of nine-tenths of the legislators.—Appleton Press.

President Roosevelt insists that there shall be no open season for storks.—Red Wing Republican.

Among the Merrymakers

Shame to Take the Money

A New Orleans insurance man just returned from Galveston is responsible for this story:

"Pat," said one Irishman to another, "how are yez getting along?"

"Ol've got th' cinch uv me loife!" was the reply.

"How's thot?"

"Sure, and Ol'm tearin' down a Portestant church!"

"Ye are? It's a conjanial occypation!"

"Yis, an' that's not all, ayther! Ol'm actually gettin' paid f'r it, too!"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Our Experience

Mrs. Rabbit was very sick and Mrs. Fox was calling to condole with her.

"What seems the matter with you, dear?" inquired the visitor, sympathetically.

"General lassitude, pain in back, sides and hips, headaches."

"Why don't you try a tonic?"

"What's the use? My brother, who is an old bachelor, is continually saying that all hare tonics are regular frauds!"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Severe on the Poet

"Are you wearing your hair long because you fancy you are poetical?"

"Suppose I am?"

"Yes. And suppose I offered you this 25 cent piece to go to a barber's and be shorn?"

"I wouldn't go."

"Then take this dollar and go to a dentist's."

"What for?"

"To have your nerve treated."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Relentless

"What is the object in delaying the trial of that sensational case so long?"

"I am trying to protect the public," answered the relentless prosecutor. "I want to give popular interest a chance to subside so that the prisoner will not be encouraged to go on the stage if acquitted."—Washington Star.

Mistaken Idea

"But, my dear," remonstrated Mr. Meekun, "there's a good deal to be said on both sides."

"No, there isn't," answered his spouse. "I've told you what I think about it, and that's all that is going to be said.—Chicago Tribune.

The Turnpike Question

Rural Rube—Be you the good roads expert that was coming up to give us fellers a lecture?

Circuit Preacher—Well, yes; I suppose you could call me that. My calling is to point out the straight and narrow path.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

A Dissatisfaction

"How do you like that speaker?"

"He is neither one thing or the other," answered the man who is never pleased. "His remarks are just stupid enough to make you sleepy and just loud enough to keep you awake."—Washington Star.

Obsequies

"So you knocked him clear out of the business," said the friend of the pugilistic champion. "Well, he's a dead one now."

"Yes," mused the bruiser, gazing at the senseless form of the hardy aspirant for honors, "I have just administered the last sad right!"—Cleveland Leader.

Knew When to Stop

Mr. Edwin O. Ropp of Illinois gives good advice to poets in the following stanza:

With burnished lute
Among the stars a poet stood;
He could not say the things he would,
And so was mute!

—Atlanta Constitution.

In Dogland

"Boo-hoo! Sammy Spaniel ran out his tongue at me."

"Never mind, dear. Perhaps he was only trying to show off his new pants."—Judge.

Touching

"His last words were very touching."

"Is he dead?"

"No; he's in Canada."—Yonkers Herald.

At St. Paul Theaters

"An American Citizen," that bright and amusing comedy by Madeline Lucette Ryley, which N. C. Goodwin made familiar to local theater goers several seasons ago, was reproduced by Mr. Goodwin at the Metropolitan last night, only to renew and strengthen the original agreeable impression it created.

A tactful and unique comedy this, manifesting ingenuity in construction, clothed in clever dialogue and sprinkled with just enough sentiment to warm the heart, in the final act, which closes the play prettily and most felicitously.

Mr. Goodwin contributes an impersonation of the New York lawyer, Cruger, afterwards called Carew for valid reasons that compels admiration for its lifelike quality and pleasing, humorous personality.

Thoroughly American by birth and instinct Cruger renounces his allegiance to the United States and adopts the maiden name of his English born mother—Carew—and weds his cousin, Beatrice Carew, in order to save a bequest of $300,000 from the latter's father, which would otherwise go to a London antiquarian society. The marriage is a mere business arrangement entered into that Beatrice may possess some of the wealth of which her father would have deprived her. Immediately after the wedding, performed by a civil officer, husband and wife separate, the latter returning to her home in England.

A year later they meet in Nice and of course fall in love with each other, though they are not united until after some highly amusing experiences and situations.

The cleverest act is the third, in which husband and wife meet in the hotel apartments of the latter, to which Mr. Carew has been shown by the hotel servant on the supposition that Mr. and Mrs. Carew were living together like other husbands and wives.

It was in this act Mr. Goodwin exhibited his accomplishment as a farceur, as well as a legitimate comedian, notably in the scene in which he pretends to be suffering from a sprained ankle.

He was amply aided by Miss Ruth Mackay, in the opposite role of Beatrice Macay, whose denotement of a surely increasing interest in her husband of convenience was indicated with admirable taste.

Not a little zest to the hotel apartment scene was afforded by the character of Sims, valet to Carew, when informed by his master that the lady in his master's apartments was his master's wife.

"Of course," was Sims' laconic response, without betraying the slightest surprise at the announcement. The role was well played by Neil O'Brien.

Fred Tyler gave a very satisfactory impersonation of Peter Barbury, Carew's law partner. Ina Goldsmith was sufficiently excitable as the nervous matron, Corola Chapin, and Ethel Beale and Flora Parker were adequate in the roles of Lady Bunn and Georgia Chapin. —F. G. H.

A performance tonight will close the engagement of Nat C. Goodwin at the Metropolitan opera house. The bill will be a revival of "A Gilded Fool," in which Mr. Goodwin's remarkable ability has full sway. The play is one of those just refined creations that touches the heart, and makes one better for seeing it. Its motive is pure, its love interest awakens tender chords and its moral teaches a lesson far stronger than many sermons.

The announcement of the engagement of Lawrance d'Orsay in Augustus Thomas' sprightly farce, "The Earl of Pawtucket," which will be presented at the Metropolitan tomorrow night and for the balance of the week should attract a generous patronage. Undoubtedly "The Earl of Pawtucket" placed Augustus Thomas, hitherto known as a clever writer of polite melodrama, at one stroke in the prize winning class of farceurs. Likewise it placed Lawrance d'Orsay, a young English actor hitherto known more widely for his mannerisms and limitations, than for his achievements in the front rank of star comedians. There will be a matinee on Saturday and an extra performance Sunday night.

Many years have passed now since Harry Corson Clarke first began to make his presence felt among the ranks of the younger comedians and for many seasons he has been starring all over the continent in comedies of worthy type. He will be seen here for three nights and a Wednesday matinee, commencing next Monday, and will present his latest vehicle, "His Absent Boy."

Interest is aroused in the coming of Creston Clarke in a production of "Monsieur Beaucaire." A more absorbing romantic play and one better suited to the ability of John Sleeper Clarke's son and Edwin Booth's nephew, it would be difficult to find. The engagement is for three nights and a matinee, commencing Thursday, May 4. Seats go on sale next Monday.

There will be a matinee of "The Way of the Transgressor" at the Grand today at 2:30. The play has stirring situations, effective climaxes and realistic tableaux. Victoria Walters, who plays the soubrette role, acts well and dances gracefully. She is ably assisted by four canine players who furnish, to say the least, a novelty. These highly educated Landseer dogs do everything but talk. Without a word of command, they perform their parts in the play.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" will be the attraction at the Grand next week. The scenes which are large enough to fill the most spacious stage could not easily be improved. Those representing the Ohio river in winter, the rocky pass in which George Harris protects his family, the St. Claire plantation, the levee at New Orleans, the cotton fields in full bloom and the "Celestial City" are all notable effects.

Water Terry and Nellie Elmer have a dancing turn in the bill at the Star that is well worth seeing. The show is altogether pleasing.

REMOVES OBSTACLES TO MITCHELL'S TRIAL

Judge Decides Adversely to the Senator's Plea in Abatement

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25.—United States District Judge Bellinger today decided adversely to the plea in abatement filed by United States Senator John H. Mitchell to the indictments returned against him by the federal grand jury in connection with the land frauds in this state. Senator Mitchell was in the courtroom when the decision was read. That he was greatly disappointed was evident. The decision denies all the pleas in abatement filed by the numerous defendants in the land fraud cases and removes all obstacles to the trial on the real issue.

Without exception, every contention made by United States District Attorney Francis J. Heney in his argument against the plea in abatement is supported by Judge Bellinger. The contention of Mr. Heney that George Giustin, a member of the federal grand jury which indicted Senator Mitchell, was qualified to serve was supported. The defense contended that Giustin was not a citizen. Judge Bellinger holds that Mr. Heney may prove Giustin's citizenship by means of affidavits.

J. J. HILL WITHDRAWS

Cannot Serve on Equitable Investigating Committee

NEW YORK, April 25.—James J. Hill, who was selected by the directors of the Equitable Life Assurance society as one of the committee to investigate into its affairs, said today that it was not true as reported that he had refused to act with this committee because of any differences or friction with any of its members. Mr. Hill said that his own affairs took up so much of his time that he had no spare moments to devote to other matters. The Equitable affair, he added, is a matter of great importance, and he felt that he must decline to serve on the committee unless he could participate in a very thorough examination of the society's affairs. He had no doubt, he said, that the committee headed by Mr. Frick will leave nothing undone in the examination. Mr. Hill said he felt some time ago that the time might come when the policy holders of the Equitable could demand a thorough investigation. Mr. Hill sent the following letter to Mr. Alexander:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 7th instant with notice of my appointment as a member of the special committee charged with the duty to investigate and report upon the present management of the society. When my name was proposed I stated it would not be possible for me to give the time necessary to get knowledge sufficient to make a report which would satisfy myself and be of any value to the society. I now beg to advise you that it will be quite impossible for me to give the time required to serve on the committee. I have been a policy holder in the Equitable Life for over thirty years, and I say as a policy holder that the time has come when the whole business of life insurance must be more carefully managed.."

The letter was received April 8. It is understood that Mr. Hill's resignation was accepted by the investigating committee, but there is no knowledge as to whether any other name has been agreed upon as his successor.

State Superintendent of Insurance Hendricks, former Attorney General Knox, counsel for the Frick investigating committee, and Henry C. Frick, chairman of the Frick committee, were in conference today. It was understood after the sessions that the men in conference had agreed to combine in the investigation. The Frick committee also held several meetings today and a number of witnesses were called. Among the stories current in financial circles was one that Gen. Nelson A. Miles would be suggested by the New England policy holders for the presidency of the Equitable. Little credence, however, is given to it.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 25.—Atty. Gen. Mayer tonight sent a letter to Senator Brackett referring to the petition filed recently by the latter on behalf of Mary S. Young of Saratoga asking the attorney general's consent under section 56 of the insurance laws to the bringing of an action against certain directors of the Equitable "to recover funds wasted by them, to remove such directors, to adjudge them disqualified to hold office in any insurance company and for general relief." In his letter the attorney general says:

"The responsibility for beginning an action in the name of the people of the state is upon me. If you are unwilling to wait until I finally determine the course to be pursued I know of no reason to prevent you, in the name of your client, from bringing proceedings for almost every purpose which you seek to accomplish by your petition."

Gambetta Fresh in Memory

BORDEAUX, April 25. — President Loubet presided today at the ceremony of the unveiling of the monument to Gambetta by Dalon. It shows Gambetta standing on a pedestal. The figures about the pedestal include a child defending its mother and Wisdom assisting Liberty, both symbolical of Gambetta's patriotic labors at the close of the Franco-Prussian war. A vast crowd of people was present and many notable addresses were made.

Mines Are Ablaze

BANFF, B. C., April 25.—A disastrous fire is raging in the coal mines near here. It has been burning for days. Flames broke from the inner shaft two miles in the mountain. All the timbering replaced after the landslide of two years ago has been burned. The damage is heavy, and it is feared that several persons have lost their lives.

News Condensed

Washington—The German government has notified Secretary Taft that at his request it has designated Mr. Tincanza as the German member of the board of consulting engineers of the isthmian canal commission. Mr. Tincanza is connected with the German ministry of public works and is one of the leading civil engineers of Germany.

Muncie, Ind.—Mrs. Noah Runyan, 73 years of age, was fatally burned, her husband perhaps fatally injured and their granddaughter, Miss Hazel Lamb, painfully injured in a fire as the result of Mrs. Runyan's apron catching fire from a gas stove.

New York—Miss Geraldine Boardman, daughter of Albert B. Boardman, counsel to the New York Rapid Transit company, was killed by falling through a skylight in a hotel at Florence, Italy. Miss Boardman had been traveling in Europe with her parents.

Springfield, Ill.—The Church bill, giving the city of Chicago power to regulate gas and electricity rates, was reported favorably by the Chicago charter committee. Attempts to amend it to include municipal ownership failed.

Philadelphia—The Presbyterian board of publication and Sabbath school work elected as secretary the Rev. Alexander Henry, pastor of the Hermon Presbyterian church. He succeeds Rev. Dr. E. R. Craven, now secretary emeritus.

Madrid—While King Alfonso, the queen mother Christina and the Infanta Theresa were riding in a motor car the car brake became unmanageable. None was injured and the accident was trifling.

New York—A petition in bankruptcy has been filed by Louis Brandt and John Brandt, trading as L. & J. Brandt, builders and architects. The liabilities are $1,118,001 and assets $33,345.

Paris—The Echo de Paris requests the French government to take measures to prevent the entry into France of cerebro spinal meningitis, which is causing heavy mortality in Germany.

New York—At a meeting today of the newly elected directors of the Phenix National bank, August Belmont and Daniel S. Lamont were elected vice presidents.

Paris—King Edward and his suite will reach Paris Saturday. Sunday President Loubet will give a dinner at the palace of the Elysee in honor of the king.

Nashville, Tenn.—Citizens of Nashville will aid in erecting the new building to replace the structure recently burned at Vanderbilt university.

South Bend, Ind.—Two unknown boys were drowned while floating on a raft in the St. Joseph river.