THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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All communications of argumentative character, political or religious, must have real name attached for publication. No such articles will be printed over fictitious signatures.

Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.

Monday, June 15.

By getting control of the Mexican railroads the Mexican government discloses its policy of forestalling the lobby and abolishing the discriminating rebates.

Philadelphia Record: There is no denying the great popularity that is claimed for President Roosevelt by his admirers, but there is nothing more uncertain or transitory than popular favor. Henry Clay in his day was more popular than is President Roosevelt in this. So also was James G. Blaine; but neither of these popular idols could reach the presidency by a vote of the people.

It is conclusive that the name of the Protestant Episcopal church will not be changed this year, nor next year, nor for many years to come. Nearly all the dioceses of the Protestant Episcopal church have voted on the question and have signified marked disapproval of the proposition. About 2,000 ministers and 280,000 communicants have voted in the negative and 211 clergymen and 24,000 communicants have voted positively in the affirmative. The minority party will not cease agitating, but it will be a long time before it can make all the converts it needs.

A servant girls' union, recently formed at Holyoke, Mass., has passed these resolutions: "No Sunday night suppers will be prepared. No work will be done in the kitchen between 7:30 p. m. and 5:30 a. m.; no baby will be 'minded' between acts of ordinary housework; no children will be allowed in the kitchen; each girl shall have three nights out per week." The document goes on to assert that $5 per week shall be the only rate of wages permitted, and that the front door must be available for the "company" of the "help," as well as an apartment more suitable than the kitchen to be used as a reception room.

The Supreme Court Disagreement.

Chicago Chronicle: The unpleasant disturbance in the state supreme court is to be regretted with sincerity by all good citizens who deplore any event which seems to belittle the administration of justice. The people will sustain Chief Justice Magruder and will have small charity for the element on the bench which made him the subject of its inopportune censure.

In fact, the people have already spoken. Wiping out and reversing a manufactured republican majority of 3,000 or 4,000 in the Fourth supreme judicial district and electing Guy C. Scott to the highest bench was a vigorous rebuke of the legislature which made the vicious gerrymander and of the four justices, including two democrats, who sustained the gerrymander against the wise and proper views of the chief justice.

The matter in dispute related to the action in the supreme court to set aside the legislative partial and sinister judicial reapportionment by which the Fourth judicial district was reconstructed for the purpose of securing the reelection of Justice Joseph N. Carter. The new deal had no other object. It was a scandalous proceeding and such was the judgment of the voters at the polls.

Justice Magruder held that the act of the legislature was unconstitutional and wrote an opinion to that effect, filing it in due order with the clerk of the court. It was published in substance and there is no doubt that this powerful judicial argument influenced to some extent the thoughtful, honest and conservative voters of the district.

In the meantime, it seems that the other justices were leisurely preparing an opinion sustaining the gerrymander, which they would have filed at some period after the election, when it would have ceased to be of the slightest value or public interest.

There is no appearance of facts to show that the chief justice acted prematurely or in any way but in accordance with usage and with the rules of courtesy prevailing between members of the same court. At any rate the chief justice is sustained at the supreme bar of public opinion in the Fourth district and his associates who censured him are kicking against the pricks.

It appears also that the censorious justices played a "snap game" in placing their censure on the record without Chief Justice Magruder's answer. He had heard of their proposed action and had prepared a minority opinion which should have gone on record with the majority opinion. He was taken by surprise and cut off from his immediate opportunity to reply in the case. It will come later.

Judge Magruder is one of the ablest and most respectable jurists who have occupied the Illinois bench and his popularity will be demonstrated if he shall become a candidate for reelection in 1906 at the expiration of his present term.

The Merger in Church Matters.

Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis has studied the matter over and has come to the conclusion that the trust business may as well be applied to the churches of the community. Instead of running 167 different sects, business men and millionaires may acknowledge that a reform in this particular is urgently needed. Millions of money have been wasted in reduplicating religious plants. For instance, the doctor says that in a western town of 1,500 inhabitants there are nine feeble churches, and continues: "This is a crime against the town and a crime against men who are earning money. You people here ought to starve those people in that community into a sense of the indecency of such methods, and the business men here should stand out and say plainly what they think of it, no matter what criticisms are heaped upon them on account of their frankness."

The doctor believes that the spirit of the age is consolidation and that not until we recognize this fact shall we be prosperous and the religious idea based upon modern methods have full force. There are a good many very good people who will not agree with Dr. Hillis. While it is true that the competition among the denominations may cause more churches to be built than can be made prosperous financially, it is also true that this same competition produces results of benefit to the world that could not be secured by the stagnation that consolidation would engender.

Scandal Investigations.

Mr. Machen, who has been suspended from his office of superintendent of free delivery by Postmaster General Payne, will in all probability be reinstated after the storm blows over and something else occupies the public mind. He is said to have the written order of some of the highest officials for some of his actions that are now called in question, and it would "hurt the party, you know," to expose too much rottenness. These scandals are never exposed by the party that perpetrates them. The star route frauds and the other Republican scandals were only uncovered because the Democrats controlled the house of representatives and thus had the power of investigation. The scandals of the Spanish war were but slightly uncovered, though investigations were undertaken and a general coat of whitewash was given for the sake of the party. If the investigations had been thorough, the facts would have staggered the country and brought disgrace upon many that are now holding high offices.

DAILY SHORT STORY

The Grave in the Cellar.

[Original.]

Tom O'Neill was a fool and a mason. He had married Jenny Cone, the girl of his choice, before he had put by any ready money and since he could not always get work was not prosperous. There is an old saying, "A fool for luck and a poor man for children," and Tom certainly illustrated the last part of the adage.

One night after Tom and his family had gone to bed there came a rap at his door. On opening it he saw a man who looked more like a rag picker than anything else standing at the door. He asked Tom if he was not a mason. When Tom replied that he was the man asked him if he would do a job of work for him that night. Since there was nothing in the house for breakfast and the stranger agreed to pay him $2 if he would work until morning, Tom agreed, whereupon, taking his tools, he went out with the man, who after blindfolding him led him about in a tortuous course and into a small cellar, where he removed the bandage. The place was lighted by a candle.

"I want you to take up a portion of the cement floor and dig a grave," said the man.

Tom set to work, took up an oblong portion of the floor and dug a grave 6 feet by 2. Then the rag picker mounted a flight of steps, opened a door and shoved the end of a pine coffin shaped box through the opening. Tom took hold, and the two carried the box and lowered it into the grave.

A barrel of cement stood ready, with everything needful for mixing it. Tom was directed to lay the floor, smoothing it so that when the cement had become old no one would notice that the floor had been disturbed. Tom, who was suspicious that a murder had been committed, looked about him to discover something by which he might identify the cellar, though there was no probability of his ever coming into it again. There was absolutely nothing unusual in the place, and all Tom could do when the rag picker's back was turned was to make a cross on the newly laid cement with the sharp blade of his knife. When the job was finished the rag picker blindfolded Tom again and led him out of the cellar. After taking him over a winding course finally the rag picker said:

"I am going to leave you now. Count 500, and when you have done so take off the bandage. If you remove it before you have made the count you will be a dead man. You will find on the ground something worth much more to you than the sum I agreed to pay you."

Tom counted 500, then, after considerable delay, removed his bandage. On the ground before him was a piece of paper on which was written in pencil:

"Always get at least a portion of your pay before doing work."

Ten years passed. Tom remembered the rag picker's advice and would have profited by it, but there was so little work to do that he was obliged to take his chances for pay. He was turned out of one house after another till he brought up in a deserted hovel on a lonely road. It was an autumn day when the family went there, and Jenny sat down on a stump and began to cry.

"Never mind, dear girl," said Tom cheerfully; "fools are usually cheerful under misfortune. It's darkest before day. Maybe something will turn up."

"Or down," added the wife, with a fresh burst of tears.

Tom, who was never idle when there was work to do, set about gathering the fallen wood lying about, which he carried into the cellar. After carrying in the first load he came out with a singular expression on his face and asked his wife for a small hand magnifying glass that his youngest boy had used for a plaything. The glass was given him, and he returned to the cellar. Presently he went upstairs and told his wife that they were in the house where he had helped make a burial.

Jenny was depressed anew at having to live over a corpse and declared that she would not go to bed that night till Tom had taken the horrid thing up and buried it in the wood. Tom, who was a patient fellow, first prepared a new burial place, then opened the grave in the cellar and after much difficulty (for Jenny could not be bought to help him) got the box, much rotted, out of its resting place and carried it part way up the steps to the cellar door. There it slipped away from him and fell with a crash to the floor, breaking to pieces.

Tom turned round, expecting to see a ghastly corpse, but instead saw several coins rolling over the floor. Seizing an ax, he completed the destruction of the box and found that it was full of gold pieces.

"Jenny," he cried, "come here. The coffin's broken, and the corpse is rolling about on the floor!"

Jenny gave a shriek, but a morbid fascination which impels people to look at awful sights led her to the cellar door, and the sunlight shooting through a small window showed her the shining gold.

Inquiry revealed to Tom that the house had once been habited by a rag picker who was suspected of being a miser. But the man was dead, and no one knew who he was or whether he had any relatives.

Tom bought the house and gradually replaced and enlarged the space it occupied. His wife and children were well dressed, and general prosperity reigned in the family. No one knows where Tom got his funds, and no one can find out, for he is his own banker, and his bank is a grave in his cellar.

F. A. MITCHELL.

Asteroidal Angling.

First Asteroidan — Gee! You've caught a whopper this time, haven't you?

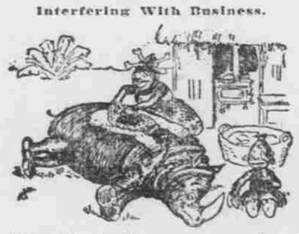
Second Asteroidan—Yep. But it ain't half as big as the one that got off my hook a little while ago!—Chicago Tribune.

Heroic Treatment.

"What sort of exercise would you advise me to take?"

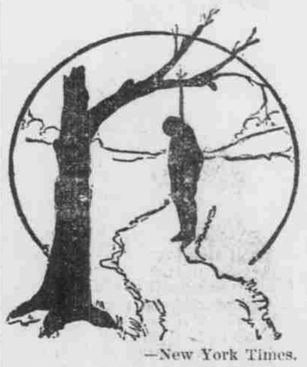
"Run about six miles before dinner, and don't eat."—New York Journal.

Interfering With Business.



Mrs. Woola—Tommy, you mustn't bother Rhino with that banana. I want him to hold still while I finish my ironing.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Tie Up on the Road.



—New York Times.

Change the Subject.

"How do you like that cigar, old man?"

"Oh, say, let's talk about something pleasant."—San Francisco Examiner.

Reading Character.

Mr. Duck—Ah, there's a promising youngster for you! His feet indicate extraordinary genius. He will certainly be in the swim.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

TODAY'S MARKETS

Chicago, June 15—Following are the opening, highest, lowest and closing quotations in today's markets:

Wheat.

July, 75¼—; 76; 75¼; 75⅞—.
Sept. 72¾ 73⅝; 72½; 73½—.
Dec., 73; 73½; 72¾; 73⅜.

Corn.

July, 48⅝; 48⅝; 48⅛; 48⅝.
Sept. 47⅞; 48; 47⅝; 47⅞—.
Dec., 46; 46½; 46⅛; 46⅛.

Oats.

July, 38⅝; 38⅝; 38¼; 38⅜.
Sept. 33⅛—; 33½; 33¼; 33⅜—.
Dec., 33⅝; 33½; 33¼; 33½—.

Pork.

July, 17.00; 17.00; 16.97; 17 00
Sept., 16.83; 16.85; 16.77; 16.85.

Lard

July, 8.77; 8.85; 8.75; 8.85.
Sept., 8.90; 8.95; 8.85; 8.92.

Ribs.

July, 9.27; 9.32; 9.25; 9.32.
Sept., 9.22; 9.27; 9.22; 9 27.

Rye. July 51¼@51½; flax, cash, N. W. 1.10; S. W. 1.07, July 1.08⅛; barley, 47@56.

Receipts today: Wheat 19, corn 516, oats 181; hogs 30,000; cattle 30 000, sheep 17,000.

Hog market opened weak, 10c lower.
Light, $5.80@6.10; mixed and butchers, $5.85@6.20; good heavy, $5.90@6.25; rough heavy, 5.90@6.00.
Cattle market opened weak, 10c lower.
Sheep market opened steady.
Union stock yards 8:40 a. m.
Hog market opened weak, fully 10c lower except for light.
Light, $5 80@6. 5; mixed and butchers, $5.85@6.20; good heavy, $5.90@6 25; rough heavy, $5.90@6.00.
Cattle market slow, mostly 10c lower.
Beeves $4.15@5.55, cows and heifers 1.50@4.90, Texas steers $3.20@4 50, stockers and feeders $2 75@4.75.
Sheep market steady.
Union Stock yards close.
Hog market closed strong for light, others weak, 10 to 15c lower.
Light, $5.85@6.15; mixed and butchers, 5.85@6.15; good heavy, $5.90@6.20; rough heavy, 5.90@6.00.
Cattle market closed slow, 10c lower.
Sheep market closed steady.
Estimated receipts Tuesday: Wheat 35; corn 685, oats 220, hogs 18,000.

New York Stocks.

New York, June 15.—The following are the closing quotations on the New York stock exchange:

So. Pacific 48¾, sugar 119, C. & A. com. 26½, gas 90⅞, Penna. 124½, B. & O. 84¾, C. R. I. & P. com 33⅝ C. M. & St. P 150⅝, Manhattan 136½, Pacific Mail ..., Atchison com., 66⅝, W. U. Tel. Co. 84⅞, N. Y. Central 127¼, L. & N. 100, H., R. T. 56⅝, Rdg. com. 46⅝, leather com. 9¼, copper 83¾, Atchison pfd. 95¼, U. S. Steel pfd 80¼, U. S. Steel common 30¼, Missouri Pacific 102¼, Union Pacific common 79¾, coal and iron 81¼, Erie common 31⅛; Wabash pfd 42½; Can Pacific 122, Republic, Steel common 14⅞, Republic Steel pfd. 74, M. K. & T. common 29¾, American Car Foundry common 35¼; C. & G. W. 18¼.

LOCAL MARKET CONDITIONS.

Today's Quotations on Provisions, Live Stock, Feed and Fuel.

Rock Island, June 15.—Following are the quotations on the local market:

Provisions.

Butter—Creamery 21c@22c, dairy 14@15c
Eggs—Fresh 14c
Live poultry—Spring chickens $3 00@$3.50 per dozen hens 10c per pound, ducks 12½c, turkeys 12½c, geese 9½c.
Vegetables—Potatoes, 65c.

Live Stock.

Cattle—Steers $3.50 to $4.50, cows and heifers $2.00 to $4.25, calves $4.25 to $5.75.
Hogs—Mixed and butchers $5.25 to $5 75
Sheep—Yearlings or over, per cwt. $4.00 to $5 25, Lambs per head $4.00 to $6 50.

Feed and Fuel.

Grain—Corn 50@55c; oats, 35c to 36c.
Forage—Timothy hay, $12 to $13, prairie $10 to $11, baled prairie $9, baled timothy $12 straw, $6.00.
Wood—Hard, per load $5.00@$5.50.
Coal—Lump, per bushel 13c@14c, mine run 13c per bushel, stack, per bushel 7c.