

THE ARGUS.

Published Daily and Weekly at 1004 Second Avenue, Rock Island, Ill. [Entered at the postoffice as second-class matter.]

BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

TERMS—Daily, 10 cents per week. Weekly, 1 per year in advance.

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Correspondence solicited from every town, ship in Rock Island county.



Tuesday, February 2, 1904.

If Brother Heston establishes a newspaper in every city, he will ultimately have the biggest trust of them all.

Voters in Illinois now realize what the leaders of the republican party are seeking office for—themselves. The voters and the people are not considered except it be to "work them" for their suffrage.

The democratic state central committee will meet at the Sherman house in Chicago tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock to take a look at the political situation and fix the time and place for holding the state convention. Peoria and Springfield would like to have the gathering, and in all probability it will go to either one of these cities.

Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, recently received a telegram from the president of a dancing class up in the woods of Wisconsin asking whether the president wears a turn-down collar with his evening clothes. "I don't know," Representative Cooper wired back. "Find out," came back a telegram in reply, "for if he does we can't support him."

A law-suit in New York by a woman who seeks to avoid a contract for the payment of \$2,700 for an edition of President Roosevelt's works, signed by the author, brought out the fact that the president has received \$155,000 in royalties on this edition. This the Washington Bulletin observes, goes to demonstrate the truth of the homely adage that a sucker is born every minute.

The Commager, in the court that dismissed Senator Dietrich on a technicality a young man who broke into a postoffice and stole 30 pennies and \$9 worth of stamps was sentenced to three years in the federal penitentiary, while an employee in the Omaha postoffice who stole \$2,929 was let off with a fine of \$2,000—or \$29 less than the amount of his stealings. And yet there are those who complain because there is an apparent growth of popular distrust of the courts.

The ministers of the port, after having decided that Turkey should not be represented at the St. Louis exposition, were influenced to change their decision when the following facts were submitted: Since the establishment of direct steamship service between New York and Turkish ports freight rates have been reduced from \$9.75 to \$4.25 a ton; the value of Turkish imports to the United States have increased from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 a year, and the United States is buying from Turkey direct more than \$10,000,000 a year.

Farmers of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and the northwest are prospecting in the southern states more this winter than for other seasons. Since early in the fall no less than a half dozen parties have organized and made excursions to Mississippi and Louisiana. The parties have started out from Dixon, Ill., and the adjoining towns, and have spent from two to three weeks in rice growing localities in the south. There is now a project to interest northern farmers in a big canning movement in the south. Canned vegetables are sent to the south from Maine and other far distant states, and it is claimed that the same product may be grown and earned in the south at a big saving. The Illinois Central people have gathered up a deal of interesting data on this subject, and Illinois farmers who own land worth from \$100 to \$150 an acre are seriously considering the question of selling it and cultivating vegetable farms in the south.

Law "Technically" Invalid.

In May of last year former Mayor Ames, of Minneapolis, central figure in the "shame of Minneapolis," was convicted of accepting money to protect law-breakers and was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary. The public was at that time familiar with the scandalous state of affairs which had shaken Minneapolis to its very foundations and caused the nation to wonder at the corruption which had put that great Minnesota city to shame. The crimes of a corrupt ring had filled the magazines and daily papers. Revelations were made. People could hardly believe that men could be so corrupt. Proof was given that officials had stooped to basest of designs and crimes. So, when it became known that Ames had been convicted and sentenced, there was a feeling of

relief among the people of the country just at a time when corruption was assuming most menacing proportions throughout the country.

The people believed that the law would be able to cope with the corruptionists, and hence were the people glad of the conviction and sentence of Ames.

It is surprising, then, with the history of corruption of Minneapolis in view, and such well authenticated stories still in mind, as were published relative to the shame of Minneapolis, that the people should begin to believe there is something wrong with the machinery of justice, when an official convicted on the evidence which convicted Ames, is freed by the supreme court? Is it a wonder that corruption defies the courts and the laws?

Ames practically acknowledged his guilt. He fled from Minneapolis. He was wretched. When dragged back to Minneapolis his attorneys made a hopeless fight for him, advancing as a last resort the plea of "insanity." Ames was convicted. Evidence of a most sensational character was submitted. It was a revelation to know how bold and bad and corrupt officials become.

The court has found the indictment faulty. This must be accepted in a legal sense, perhaps, as justifying Ames' release, but it is too bad that a man who has committed such a grave offense against the public should be released on a mere technicality.

These constant failures of the law to sustain itself in cases where officials are manifestly corrupt and criminal, is weakening the potency of the American system of law.

The courts, the people, the legislators of the land must look to this matter. The law is being rendered notoriously inadequate by the manipulation of the technicality.

Republican Rakeoff From Panama.

When the inside history of the session of Panama is given to the world it will make interesting reading for those ardent friends of the strenuous occupant of the White House, who, they claim, had no knowledge of the conspiracy that hatched a rebellion in order when needed, the regular correspondent at Washington of the Chicago Chronicle in a special telegram on Dec. 22 said:

"One of the sensational charges Senator Gorman is prepared to make hereafter is that a coterie of New York men subscribed a war fund to the Panama revolutionists amounting to \$300,000 with the understanding that they would be repaid tenfold from the \$10,000,000 Panama expected to receive and the \$40,000,000 which ostensibly will be appropriated for the French company. Senator Gorman is said to know the names of the men who advanced this money."

"He will charge in connection with this disclosure that the fund was subscribed only after definite and positive assurances were conveyed to the subscribers by responsible persons connected with the administration that substantial aid would be extended to the revolutionists and the republic of Panama would not only be recognized by this government, but that its independence would be guaranteed as well."

Several Democratic senators will change in addition that the lobbyists and promoters, who are expected to receive a large share of the \$10,000,000, have agreed to make a substantial contribution to the next Republican campaign fund. The Democratic senators believe the story. One of their number said in discussing it that he had been informed that the amount set aside for political purposes was \$5,000,000.

"If that is true," he said, "no wonder the president's political friends are not worrying about the hostility of Wall street."



"You can fool part of the people all the time, all of the people part of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time."—Johnston (Pa.) Democrat.

Better Than Gold.

"I was troubled for several years with chronic indigestion and nervous debility," writes F. J. Green, of Lancaster, N. H. "No remedy helped me until I began using Electric Bitters, which did me more good than all the medicines I ever used. They have also kept my wife in excellent health for years. She says Electric Bitters are just splendid for female troubles; that they are a grand tonic and invigorator for weak, run-down women. No other medicine can take its place in our family." Try it. Only 50 cents. Satisfaction guaranteed by Hartz & Uemeyer.

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DAILY SHORT STORY

The Value of Bluff.

[Original.]

When I was a boy, I had a great desire for a military education, but, as I had not the influence needed in those days to secure one, I went to work in a bank. The president, a civil war veteran, noticing that I had military tastes, talked to me a great deal about his campaigns. "What a commander needs," he said, "is resource—a keen sight to see his requirements in things about him. I knew a general who once, seeing a man fishing on a cotton bale, was struck with his buoyancy and conceived the idea of making a floating bridge of the bales."

I had been in the bank two years when through the failure of another bank a run was started on ours. I was then eighteen years old, but precocious. When the bank had stood a two days' run, it was evident it could not pull through a third. The night before that dreaded third day the directors met at the bank. I was perched on a high stool where I could hear them talk, but heard no feasible plan for the morrow. It occurred to me to try a bluff game. I would not have dared to propose it to the managers and would have been laughed at if I had. Putting on my hat I went outside and, pushing my way through the crowd, gained the street, where I hailed a cab. As I got in I instructed the coachman to drive off at a gallop. He did so, and we were watched by the crowd, many of whom knew I was an employee of the concern.

The driver pulled up after we had gone about a mile and asked for instructions. We were standing in front of a coal yard, and in the office was a light. I got out of the carriage, went to the office and found a man working over his books.

"Have you any nut coal?" I asked. "Yes." "Any sacks?" "Yes." "I want five sacks of nut coal." "All right. I'll send it in the morning. What address?" "I want it now."

"Now? This is no time to do business."

I argued with him till he consented to fill five gunny sacks with nut coal, which I directed him to charge to the president of the bank—for I had no money—and, taking three sacks into the carriage, leaving the other two on the box with the driver, I directed him to drive back to the bank. When I reached it I called to a policeman, who was there to keep the crowd in order, asking him to guard the treasure. He called others, and in a few minutes three men in uniform surrounded the carriage. Then we lugged the five sacks of coal into the bank. When I had dumped the last sack on the floor I went into the president's room, where the meeting was still in session, and asked him for \$2 to pay the hackman. He looked at me surprised and asked where I had been, whereupon I told him the story.

I never saw such a change in a man's face in my life. "You little bruck!" he exclaimed, taking me by the hand. "You may save this bank, and if you do—Drive right away again and bring five more sacks. Here is a ten dollar bill. Want any more? No? Well, go ahead, and the Lord be with you."

I found the coal office where I had been closed and had to get a coal dealer out of his bed for the next lot, but I secured them and took five more bags back to the bank, reaching it about 2 o'clock in the morning. More than half the crowd had gone by this time, having had confidence restored by the first five bags of coal. After I had got the second lot inside, the directors adjourned the meeting and, led by the president, went out chatting merrily, wearing every appearance of having got in good enough to last a month.

The next morning the bank opened as usual, but people who had been there the night before mingled with the crowd, spreading the report that ten sacks of gold had gone in and that the bank was all right. Many left the line leading to the cashier's window, and before noon there were not a dozen people waiting to draw their accounts. The bank was saved.

After 3 o'clock I was sent for to go into the president's office. Most of the directors were there, and every man in turn insisted upon shaking hands with me. Then the president made me the following address:

"Young man, you were cut out for a general, and a general you shall be; at least, you shall have the fitting for one. A man, or, rather, a boy, who can stop a run on a bank with nut coal would know enough in war to make a retreat leaving Quaker guns in position and campfires burning. We're going to get you a cavalry's appointment to West Point if every man of us has to leave the business till the work's accomplished. You can go back to your desk now, and as long as you stay here your salary is double what it has been." The congressman of the district was applied to in my behalf, and as he had promised the next year's appointment to another he agreed to make me alternate. The appointee failed on his entrance examination, and I, who meanwhile had left the bank and studied hard, passed mine. I was graduated about the middle of my class, but I had the reputation of being one of the "cheekiest" cadets at the "Point." Then I fought Indians, went to Cuba and later to the Philippines. I have played many bluff games to fool my enemy, most of them having been successful. I have learned from this experience that what men need to enable them to win is confidence and what my enemy needs to enable me to defeat him is the belief that I'm going to do it. CUTHBERT F. ROE.

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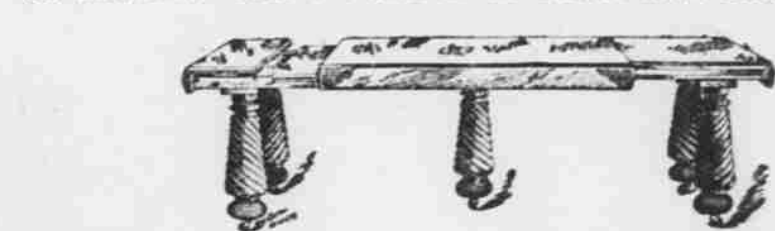
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