

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.



Wednesday, September 7, 1904.

The presidential canvass period is a time of claimers and declaimers.

As a strike breeder and trust creator there is nothing like a stand-pat high tariff.

Vesuvius in action again probably makes Naples wish that the volcano were a sphinx.

Pity the sorrows of the republican orator in Missouri this year. He will have nothing to say and nobody to say it to.

Six Indians died from drinking alcohol at Rolla, N. D. There must have been an enormous supply of alcohol at Rolla.

Yes, Vermont went republican by the customary majority, but when it comes to a discussion of precedents and criteria how about Arkansas?

President Roosevelt's letter of acceptance contains 12,000 words. This ought to serve as a warning to those persons who have made up their minds to read it.

W. T. Stead says the czar is one of the most enlightened men in the world. He certainly ought to be if he has been reading the papers since last February.

Mr. Roosevelt is running against the constitution. The competition is unfortunate for him. A president may override the constitution while in office, but a candidate cannot overcome it in a campaign.—St. Louis Republic.

After all the boasting that came from administration sources to what the republicans would do in the republican state of Vermont the republican majorities in the election of yesterday are not above the average—not so large as they have been in times past.

Unique scenes were enacted when the remains of Col. M. H. Messersch of Douglasville, Pa., were removed from his late home to the place of cremation near by. Deceased was a millionaire and had more friends among tramps than any other man in the country. In some mysterious way news of his death had been passed around among these waifs, scores of whom were in attendance, many having come from long distances. Messersch always had a quarter for a tramp and was known to thousands of the nomadic fraternity.

There is not much evidence of the existence of a board of strategy in the war now going on in the far east. The operations are not directed by a body of men thousands of miles from the scene of operations. The commanders, both as regards the Russians and the Japs, have been given hints as to the general conduct of the campaign, but it has not been necessary, as it was in the case of Dewey, to cut the cable in order to get busy without interruption. An exchange remarks that war is hell over there and is carried on in the old hellish way of finding the enemy and then smashing them if the thing is possible, just as Grant did.

Political Speeches From the Cabinet.

New York World: The World cannot wholly agree with certain captions critics of the administration who profess to find in the political activity of the cabinet officers a violation of the spirit of the civil service law. It is a far-fetched criticism. There is no violation of the law, no impropriety in a cabinet officer's "taking the stump."

On the contrary, there are excellent reasons why a cabinet officer should make speeches in a campaign. Such activity is wholly in harmony with the political traditions of the English speaking peoples, who have always insisted that their public servants give from time to time an account of their statesmanship. The people have a right to know what Secretary Taft has to say in support of his Philippine policy; what explanation Secretary Shaw can make of the treasury deficits; how Mr. Hay can justify the administration's dealing with Colombia and Venezuela and its profuse use of the big stick; what Mr. Payne thinks of "hot air" and the postoffice scandals. Free discussion is the breath of life of republican institutions, and we are

not in danger of suffering from too much of it.

If the cabinet officers can convince the people that the administration was right in its policies, and is going to be right, well and good. If they cannot, the administration must take the consequences. The World does not believe the supporters of Judge Parker are afraid to meet any issue the cabinet officers can raise.

Boodlers Not Wanted by Folk.

This epigrammatic phrase from the recent speech of Joseph W. Folk of Missouri will live a long time:

"I do not want the support of boodlers. Next to the honor of defeating them is the honor of being defeated by them."

Yet there are municipalities in the United States today which sometimes tolerate officials who seek support of boodlers and depend upon that support for election as opposed to the support of the law-abiding element. Non-enforced laws, broken pledges and neglect of duty are the products of boodler elected officials.

If Missouri fails to elect Mr. Folk, Missouri deserves to suffer severely. If the state should fail to elect Folk it would serve it right to be punished by going republican.

Russia's Worst Enemy is at Home.

Perhaps when the Russian-Jap war is over, and the truth is all known, it will develop that the Japanese did not weaken Russia so much on the firing line as Russia has weakened herself at home. Militarism and anarchy seem to have rotted Russia internally. An illustration was the assassination of Minister Von Plehwe only a few weeks ago.

The fundamental principle of national strength and integrity is peace at home. Russia faces a deadly war at home. Officials look into the faces of the people with terror, knowing not which among them carry daggers in their sleeves or bombs in their pockets.

Obstacles to City Building.

The Argus always has been an observer and respecter of law, as any newspaper ought to be, but it never has had any patience with the disposition to take advantage of supposed technicalities for the purpose either of oppressing or imposing upon corporations in their reasonable enjoyment of privileges for doing business.

The Argus believes Rock Island the best town on earth. It is composed of the most enterprising and progressive people, liberal-minded in their treatment of all enterprises and industries, and on this account the spirit manifesting itself here of late years on the part of a few to inflict hardships on corporations, and thus do irreparable injury to the city's name, is the more to be deprecated.

This paper has not hesitated to condemn on all occasions the tendency in certain quarters to unnecessarily and unjustly embarrass the Tri-City Railway company and the Milwaukee road in the holding of their franchises here, and the proceeding that has now been entered against the Rock Island Plow company of a similar nature ought likewise to be denounced by all people broad-minded enough to regard the welfare of the entire city as paramount to the picaresque interests of the individual.

Such proceedings as are herein referred to will do more to check the efforts of business men's associations and other organizations for the promotion of the common good than can be overcome in years of hard, persistent labor.

The world outside should not and, The Argus hopes, will not, judge Rock Island by the narrow spirit of the few who seek to profit at the expense of the city in general. It is simply the old foggy spirit that is apt to crop out in any community, and Rock Island regrets as much as it possibly can that it is in evidence here.

Notice to Stockholders.

Public notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Illinois Central Railroad company will be held at the company's office in Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, October 12, 1904, at 12 o'clock noon.

To permit personal attendance at said meeting there will be issued to each holder of one or more shares of the capital stock of the Illinois Central Railroad company, as registered on the books of the company at the close of business on Tuesday, September 27, 1904, who is of full age, a ticket enabling him, or her, to travel free over the company's lines from the station on the Illinois Central Railroad nearest to his or her registered address to Chicago and return, such ticket to be good for the journey to Chicago only during the four days immediately preceding and the day of the meeting, and for the return journey from Chicago, only on the day of the meeting and the four days immediately following, when properly countersigned and stamped during business hours—that is to say, between 9:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m.—in the office of the assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Bruen, in Chicago. Such ticket may be obtained by any holder of stock, registered as above, on application, in writing, to the president of the company in Chicago. Each application must state the full name and address of the stockholder exactly as given in his or her certificate of stock, together with the number and date of such certificate. No more than one person will be carried free in respect to any one holding of stock as registered on the books of the company.

A. G. HACKSTAFF,

Secretary.

DAILY SHORT STORY

A PUZZLE IN EVIDENCE.

[Original.]

One of the most puzzling cases of professional duty I ever had was that of Philip Gray, whom I defended on a charge of forgery. Before selecting a line of defense I visited the prisoner in his cell and asked him to tell me whatever he knew that would tend to establish his innocence. Gray was a fine looking young fellow, about twenty-five years old, and with as honest a look as I ever saw in any man's eye. Judge, therefore, of my surprise when, instead of complying with my request, he asked me whether an attorney was bound to secrecy with respect to his client's admission of guilt, and when I said that such was the obligation he declared that he had committed the forgery.

A celebrated British barrister, having been placed in a similar position, referred the case to the judges, who after deliberation told him that it was proper he should defend his client, though he should not state his own belief in his innocence. I resolved to act upon this advice myself and proceeded with the defense.

Gray seemed indifferent to the outcome; at any rate, he would give me no information to guide me in assisting him. Indeed, there was little to bring forward, for all the incentive to the crime was with the accused. The forgery was the signature of a will purporting to have been left by his uncle, Peter Martin, leaving Philip Gray all his property, a large estate. There was, however, one weak point in the evidence against the prisoner in this: That two in three experts in chirography testified, and without knowledge of each other's conclusions, that Philip Gray had not written the signature to the will. But the opinion of the two experts who were of this opinion did not count for much. They were without reputation in their calling and had been summoned by me. The expert who declared that the accused had committed the forgery was at the head of his profession and had been summoned by the state.

The last day of the trial was an exciting one, rather, a pathetic one. The mother of the accused was in court and the agony depicted on his face was enough to move a heart of adamant. Indeed, the evidence against my client was so strong, and I was so weakened by the knowledge of his guilt, that I came toward the end of the trial to rely principally on the presence of the mother and her effect upon the jury. I spoke, feelingly of the misfortune under which the prisoner labored, that both of the witnesses who had seen the testator sign the will were dead, drawing a picture of the delightful transition from one accused of a crime to vindication if one or both the witnesses should come into court. I also pictured to the jury a noble life blighted by a mistake. While I was speaking the mother of the prisoner was far more visibly affected than the jury, and when I sat down she went out of the courtroom, sent for me and confessed that she, in order to secure the estate for the son, had forged the will.

Here was a new complication, but it was a relief to me. Gray, to screen his mother, had confessed the crime. He, not his mother, was my client, and I was placed in a new position by this knowledge of his innocence. I did not care to ask him if his mother's confession was the truth, for I felt quite sure that the same motive that had led him to accuse himself would lead him to deny that she was guilty. I went back into the courtroom resolved to spare no effort to save an innocent man, one who was placing himself in his mother's stead, from punishment for a crime he had not committed. But here again I was a puzzle as to duty. Professionally I was bound to prove my client's innocence if possible. By putting his mother on the stand I could secure his acquittal. I knew that he would be a far greater sufferer if I adopted this course than if he were convicted in her stead. I made up my mind to do what I could for him without compromising his mother. Possibly I might save him without resorting to this expedient.

I arose to the last summing up. There was little to say in his defense without accusing his mother, so I was obliged to content myself with a continued effort to win the sympathy of the jury. But on this I was clogged by a knowledge that the woman for whom I asked their indulgence was herself guilty of the crime. As I proceeded I saw that the twelve men looking at me were convinced that I did not feel what I said. I was lumbering along hurriedly when there was a stir beyond the rail. A man pushed forward and asked to speak to the prisoner's counsel. I paused in my speech and went to the rail.

"I'm Edmund D. Corwin," he said, "one of the witnesses to the will of Peter Martin."

"Are you sure? You're supposed to be dead."

"I can prove my identity and am ready to swear that Peter Martin signed a will in my presence."

He did both, and the prisoner was not only acquitted, but came into possession of a large fortune. The explanation? Well, the man who would have inherited the estate but for the will worked up a case of forgery against Gray. Gray's mother had once told her son that his uncle's estate should never go to the next of kin, and Gray believed that she had committed forgery for his sake. He confessed to save her, and she confessed to save him. The witness who finally set us all right had permitted himself to be supposed to be dead in order to get away from a woman who had been hounding him for blackmail. At her death he returned, fortunately just in time. THOMAS BROWN.

TODAY'S MARKETS.

Chicago, Sept. 7.—Following are the opening, highest, lowest and closing quotations in today's markets:

Wheat.

September, 104, 104½, 103½, 104½.
December, 106½, 107½, 106½, 106½.
May, 109, 109½, 108½, 109.

Corn.

September, 53½, 54, 53½, 53½.
December, 51½, 51½, 52½, 52½.
May, 55½, 56½, 55½, 56.

Oats.

September, 31½, 31½, 31½, 31½.
December, 31½, 32½, 32½, 32½.
May, 35½, 35½, 35, 35½.

Pork.

September, 16.77, 16.80, 16.77, 16.80.
October, 16.90, 16.90, 16.87, 16.92.
January, 12.50, 12.55, 12.50, 12.55.

Lard.

September, 7.00, 7.00, 7.00, 7.00.
October, 7.07, 7.15, 7.07, 7.10.
January, 7.10, 7.17, 7.10, 7.17.

Hogs.

September, 7.20, 7.20, 7.20, 7.20.
October, 7.22, 7.25, 7.22, 7.25.
January, 6.57, 6.62, 6.57, 6.57.

Receipts today: Wheat 95, corn 783, oats 310, hogs 10,000, cattle 12,000, sheep 20,000.

Estimated receipts Thursday: Wheat 71, corn 400, oats 190, hogs 14,000.

Ho market opened strong to 5¢ higher. Light 5.40@5.50, mixed and butchers 5.20@5.75, good heavy 4.80@5.65, rough heavy 4.80@5.00.

Cattle market opened steady.

Sheep market opened weak to 10¢ lower.

Hogs at Omaha 5.90, cattle 2.00, hogs at Kansas City 5.00, cattle 11.00.

St. Louis, Sept. 7.—Hog market firm to 5¢ higher. Light 5.40@5.50, mixed and butchers 5.20@5.80, good heavy 4.80@5.65, rough heavy 4.80@5.00.

Cattle market steady to 10¢ higher. Heaves 3.15@3.25, cows and heifers 1.90@4.25, Texas steers 2.70@4.20, stockers and feeders 2.00@2.85.

Sheep market steady to 10¢ lower.

Hog market closed steady to strong. Light 5.40@5.50, good heavy 4.80@5.65, mixed and butchers 5.20@5.80, rough heavy 4.80@5.00.

Cattle market closed strong and mostly 10¢ higher.

Sheep market closed slow.

New York Stocks.

New York, Sept. 7.—Sugar 130½, Gas 102½, C. & O. 27½, Southern Pacific 57½, R. & O. 80½, Atchafalpa common 82½, Atchafalpa preferred 98½, C. & St. P. 157, Manhattan 156, Copper 28½, W. & T. 91½, N. Y. Central 121½, L. & N. 122½, C. & A. 41½, Reading common 65½, Canadian Pacific 125½, R. R. T. 50½, Pacific Mail 21, U. S. Steel preferred 63½, U. S. Steel common 15½, Penna 125½, Missouri Pacific 98½, Union Pacific 100½, Coal & Iron 46½, Erie common 39½, Wabash preferred 40½, C. & G. W. 16½, Illinois Central 138½, Car Foundry 20½, Republic Steel preferred 43½.

LOCAL MARKET CONDITIONS.

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

Rock Island, Sept. 7.—Following are the wholesale quotations in the local market:

Provisions.

Butter—Creamery, 20c, dairy 15@16c.
Eggs—Fresh 16c.
Lard—9c.

Live Poultry—Spring chickens, \$2.75 @3.25 per dozen; hens 8c per pound; turkeys 10c per pound; ducks 8c; geese 8c.

Vegetables—Potatoes 40c.

Live Stock.

Cattle—Steers \$4.00@5.00; cows and heifers \$2.00@4.00; calves \$3.00@5.00.

Hogs—Mixed and butchers \$4.75@5.25; Sheep—Yearlings or over \$3.00@4.00; lambs \$3.50@5.00.

Feed and Fuel.

Grain—Corn 55c@60c; oats 32@35c.
Forage—Timothy hay \$9.00@11; prairie \$9@10.50, straw \$5.50@7.50.

Wood—Hard, per load, \$5.50.
Coal—Lump, per bushel, 14c; slack, per bushel, 7c.

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