

THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.



Saturday, September 10, 1904.

Orderly retreat and rout seem to be synonymous in the Russian language.

The newest drink is a Jeffries' punch. When you get a few under the belt you are about all in.

As Arkansas went, so will go Texas—Chicago Tribune. And as Vermont went, so will go Maine.

Business men are drifting rapidly to Parker; a fact which means well for Parker and for business.

Maybe the czar would rather take his chances "at the front" than walk the floor at night with his colicky son and heir.

The election report from Vermont indicates that with all her opportunities to learn she is still green—Quincy Herald.

The trip from New York City to Dawson City can be made in 10 days now. Do you suppose Secretary Seward would believe it if he should happen to drop in just now?

The Kansas City barber who charged Fairbanks \$2 for a shave doubtless earned his money. He also had to comb the senator's hair and do a little stunt in landscape gardening.

The military establishment of the United States, exclusive of pensions, will, under four years of Roosevelt, in a time of profound peace, have cost \$515,000,000 more than under four years of Cleveland.

One half of the men employed in the steel works at Sharon, Pa., are to be discharged between now and the first of January next. The mill is in the United States Steel trust. The idle men will inquire about this tariff business as a dinner pail filler.

A canvass of Indiana has been made by the Indianapolis Sentinel, and the conclusion of its correspondent is that if a vote were taken now there would be a democratic plurality of 5,000 or more. He finds the gold and silver democrats united, a good deal of disunion among republicans and that a great many of the business men who supported President McKinley are now supporting Judge Parker. He believes the republican vote will fall off five per cent or more and that the democrats will gain this. The Sentinel editorially believes its correspondent is too conservative, and predicts a plurality of more than 6,000 for Parker and Davis.

The following expressions from Hon. Lawrence Stringer, democratic candidate for governor of Illinois, will appeal at once to all thinking and unprejudiced citizens: "The office of governor of Illinois is non-political. It is a business office, and in seeking votes I shall consider myself wholly to state issues. The governor of this state has nothing to do with the money question, the tariff, or the Panama canal. I am not attacking Gov. Yates' administration in particular. I am attacking the system that exists with regard to the management of our state institutions. I advocate a complete and radical change in administrative heads of departments. I hold that Mr. Deneen, if elected, could not make these needed changes, owing to conditions with which he would find himself surrounded."

The Russian Crisis.

The Japanese are bent on annihilating the army under Kuropatkin or compelling it to surrender. Having driven it from Liaoyang, they are, according to the reports, pursuing and fiercely attacking it on its retreat from Mukden. The news this morning indicates that the Japanese are forcing the Russians to defend the rear of their retreating army at heavy cost and that the Russian army is likely to be destroyed or captured before it escapes. If the Japanese destroy Kuropatkin's army or compel it to surrender, the beginning of the end of the struggle will be nigh. The bone of contention between the combatants has been Manchuria. Once driven from the country, it would seem at that distance, folly for Russia to attempt to recapture what she lost at a terrible sacrifice. On the other hand, if Kuropatkin succeeds in reaching

Tieling with his army in a condition to defend it against Japanese attacks, it will be equivalent to a victory for the Russians and the war will continue many months. That is the reason the Japanese are making such herculean efforts to overwhelm and annihilate Kuropatkin on his retreat.

The Situation in New York.

Everybody agrees that New York will be the scene of a pivotal struggle in November. Both parties are claiming the state, and as for democracy, it is intelligently preparing with a thorough and united organization for a supreme effort.

At present the republican equipment, however, does not appear to warrant great confidence in the party. Mr. Root could have cleared up much of his party's difficulty by consenting to run for governor, but he has steadfastly and with the utmost evident sincerity declined.

Gov. Odell, who has temporarily wrested control of the organization away from Platt by sheer force, has done an unprecedented thing in making himself state chairman, fearing to trust any man but himself in that position. Every Platt man in the Empire State is infuriated and stirred to attack by this action, and it is said the ticket will be knifed by wholesale, whoever may be the nominee. Platt will not die happy, so it is given out, until he shall have once more come into his own and dethroned Odell. Platt men unhesitatingly announce that the presidential election will be subordinated to the factional fight. Platt is far from being dead politically. How, in the face of all this, asks the St. Louis Republic, can the republican party hope to carry New York?

Hard Times and High Death Rate.

Brooklyn Eagle: The republican talk about "prosperity" sounded like a joke in the face of the recently printed tables showing the increase in the cost of living. But in the face of the rising death-rate and the amounts expended in charitable societies in New York City such a claim becomes either a satire or a tragedy. The death rate has risen from 18.18 last year to 22.21 for the first six months of the present year. The total number of deaths in the city last year was 67,000 while for the first half of this year it is 42,000. The officials of the health department attribute this rise in the death-rate to increasing poverty and to lack of proper food and clothing. Bodies weakened for lack of food succumb to all sorts of disease. Although this summer has been singularly cool the proportion of deaths among children suffering from intestinal diseases has been unusually high. The lack of food is explained by high prices. The same wages will buy only about two-thirds as much food as they would two or three years ago, and the poor have to scrimp themselves in many ways.

AUGUSTANA NOTES.

Registration day, last Tuesday, at Augustana, was a very busy day. In addition to a great number of former students, over 100 new students came from all parts of the land and presented themselves for registration. All signs show that the enrollment this year will be considerably larger than that of last.

Prof. Oelschlagel, formerly of Clinton, Iowa, takes up his violin work at Augustana Monday. In the course of the following week he will give a violin recital in the chapel.

The number of students coming to the music department was so large that one more teacher was engaged, Miss Daugherty, who was once a student at this conservatory. She has since studied under such men as Friedheim, McCarroll, Hyllestedt, Falk, and Browski, in addition to taking the examination of the Victoria Music college of London. During the course of this month a piano recital will be given by Miss Daugherty at the college chapel.

Last Wednesday morning Mrs. Lund, who has for many years been instructor in vocal at Augustana, returned from Europe, where she has been spending the summer, and will resume her duties at Augustana.

The enrollment in the business department is also large and the class of students is the best.

Tennis seems very popular among the students this year. One club intends to have three first class courts prepared and hopes to advance the interest and efficiency in tennis so that intercollegiate matches can be arranged for, at which Augustana hopes to make a good showing.

S. R. Wright Appointed.

W. G. Edens, grand chancellor of Illinois, of the Knights of Pythias, has appointed S. R. Wright, of this city, an honorary member of the committee on the Aged Pythians and Pythian Orphans' home. Mr. Wright has accepted. His duty will be the interest of members of the lodges of the county and elsewhere in the state in the projected home in which to care for aged Pythians and their orphans.

Foot Caught in Machinery.

Mrs. DeVoe, of Sears, employed in the Rock Island cannery company factory in that village, stepped through an opening the floor Thursday, her foot catching in an automatic corn husk carrier. The foot from the heel to the toes was painfully lacerated.

DAILY SHORT STORY
A WISE INSPECTOR.

(Original.)
From my youth I desired to work up a case with detectives, and at last luck threw an opportunity in my way. Returning from a journey I found a small satchel on a seat in the car I was leaving and picked it up. When passing through the station gate a couple of men stared at me so intently that I asked if they were looking for a lost satchel. They proved to be detectives watching the train. There had been a robbery of diamonds up the road, and they were looking for the thief. The bag was opened and found to contain the very property they were looking for.

The thief had doubtless become frightened and left it on purpose.

"There's a big reward offered for this," said the inspector at the police office where I was taken with the jewels, "which you will get, but I want you to help me trap the thief."

He wrote an advertisement stating that a bag containing diamonds had been found on a train and the owner could have the same by applying to the finder.

It didn't seem to me that the thief would be likely to walk into such a palpable trap, and so I told the inspector. He drew back laughingly and asked me where I had been educated in detective work. I confessed that my knowledge of the subject had mostly come from reading detective stories, and this mortified him. When a few days after the insertion a note signed "G. E. E." written in an excellent hand, well spelled and well expressed, but extremely guarded, came for me, I hung my head to the inspector and told him that it was plain he was much more farseeing than I had supposed.

Several notes passed, each stating plainer than the last what was expected, and finally G. E. E. wrote offering that if I would deliver the jewels I was to have half their value, he agreeing to turn them into cash at his own risk. I accepted the terms, stipulating that I should be paid cash on delivery. I was to take the jewels to a certain number on a certain street at an appointed hour.

The inspector, in order to win the confidence of the thief, so that we might make a more certain and complete job, borrowed the jewels, which had been turned over to the owner, and had facsimiles made of them, which were handed to me in the very satchel I had found on the train. The inspector gave me full instructions. I was to go to the appointed place and keep the thief dithering as to the value of the jewels for twenty minutes. Meanwhile the police were to surround the house and within the twenty minutes enter and make the arrest. I told the inspector that it would be better for him to send one of his own trained men in my place, but he told me that the thief doubtless had kept watch to see who had taken the satchel and such a plan wouldn't work at all. I thought I might be at some risk, but my admiration for detectives and my desire to take part in their clever work buoyed me up, and I consented to keep the appointment.

I found the house to be a small, dingy looking dwelling, standing on a lot by itself, not nearer than thirty feet to any other building. I rang the door-bell and was admitted by a man. I asked if he was G. E. E. He led me to a back room, and we at once commenced negotiations. He asked me what value I put upon the jewels, and I named a sum double what it really was. He examined them and at once agreed to my valuation.

"That makes half their value \$7,500," he said, and counted out new crisp bills, mostly of \$500 each, making up the amount. I was quite taken aback at the rapidity with which the transaction had gone through and began to show signs of wanting more, whereupon the man told me that if I was not satisfied to take my jewels and go. This would have spoiled the plan, so to gain time I set about counting the bills. While I was thus engaged I heard a door latch click and, looking up, found the man had gone with the jewels. I sprang for the door and endeavored to open it. It had been locked by a spring lock with no knob on my side of it.

There was nothing to do but go out the front door and notify the police who were to have surrounded the house. Seeing one of them in front of the door I called him in, and, followed by several of the others, he darted into the house and began to ransack it. Not a person was to be found. The house had been surrounded since I entered it and no one had gone out. After a considerable search a tunnel was found leading from the cellar to a deserted blacksmith shop ninety feet away. It, too, was empty.

This didn't seem so sharp on the part of the police, after all, but I remembered that the man had false jewels and I had \$7,500. The bills were taken to the police office, where the inspector sat behind his desk in no good humor at the failure of his plan. He took one of the bills, held it up to the light, put a magnifying glass to it and grunted:

"Counterfeit."

"I formed my own conclusions. Counterfeiters seeing the advertisement hoped to turn some of their wares into diamonds, a good investment for them, and personated the thief who had stolen the jewels. There was a chance that the thief who had stolen the jewels desired to realize on them, but as this was not the case they got only paste for their 'gemmer'."

After I had thus figured the matter out I wrote a note to the inspector telling him that I had guessed the meaning of the letters G. E. E. They stood for "Get 'Em Early."

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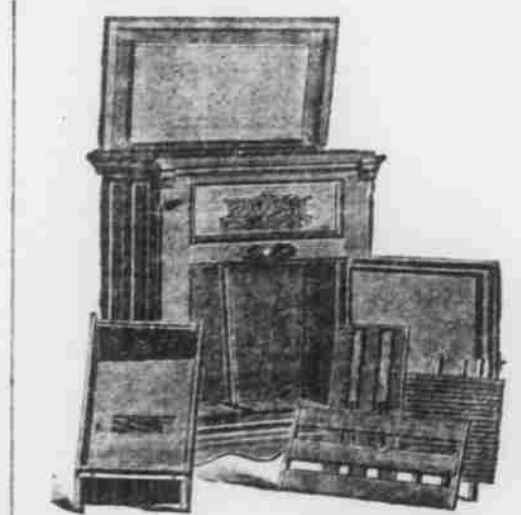
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