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.

Thursday, January 26, 1905.

Former Gov. Richard Yates has become one of the counsel for the Illinois Central road.

The Pennsylvania railroad company proposes to issue $50,000,000 more bonds. Go on; it doesn't cost much to print them, and the people will buy despite a dozen Lawsons.

A cut glass bowl as big as a wash tub, seven feet in circumference and 27 inches in diameter, valued at $3,000, is shown in a New York shop window. Must be the family finger bowl of the "400."

"Frenzied finance" is alleged by a would-be suicide to have cost him $40,000. It cost Lawson millions, but he is getting back part of his losses now. Lawson, by the way, has something coming to him for having created that word "frenzied."

Senator Pettus, of Alabama, is 84 years old and has never been known to take medicine since going to Washington. "How do you keep so well?" asked Sergeant-at-Arms Ransdell, who has a little apothecary shop for the benefit of senators. "Don't you ever see a doctor?" "Oh, yes, I see a doctor," Senator Pettus said. "I go and talk with my physician frequently. He gives me prescriptions and I never have 'em filled, and consequently I always feel good."

If anyone wishes to arouse Secretary Morton to enthusiasm all he need do is to say something about the riches of the Nile valley. Says he, "Why, it is as nothing compared with the Mississippi valley, which you must remember extends from the Rockies to the Alleghanies. Its resources are billions, and it has only reached its beginnings. The corn crop alone of the Mississippi valley is worth close to $1,000,000,000 a year. It's the greatest and richest valley on earth."

Representative Pendarvis, of the Illinois general assembly, who is a Chicago lawyer and has been in the general assembly since 1900, has been made chairman of the house committee on Chicago charter. He was born over in Henderson county, and graduated from Hedding college at Abingdon, in 1884. Afterward he attended law school in Chicago and was also engaged in newspaper work in the big city. He is considered very well equipped with a knowledge of Chicago's charter needs.

Precious Stones in 1904.

The world's production of precious stones was, according to George F. Kunz' report for the United States geological survey, less in 1904 than in 1903, but in the United States the year was one of great eventfulness and prosperity for the precious stones industry.

Although no diamonds are produced in this country, so many are purchased and worn that the condition of the trade is of great interest to many Americans. The value of the diamonds cut in the United States at the present time is greater than the value of those imported during many previous years.

It is interesting then to know that the troubles in the diamond-cutting industry, both in Europe and in America, have been adjusted. The strikes among the diamond cutters of Amsterdam, which were of long duration and threatened to be disastrous to the diamond trade, are apparently settled for a period of at least three or four years. Beginning Jan. 1, 1905, diamond cutters in the United States will work 54 hours a week, and from the last of August at an advance in wages of 20 per cent. The general prosperity of the country in 1904 was deflected in an unusual demand for the cut stones. The greatest diamond known in history—the "Excelsior" or "Jagersfontein"—was imported into the country last year and cut up into the diamonds which weighed from 12 7-8 to 68 carats each. The original gem weighed 340 17-32 carats and was the whitest of the world's large diamonds.

Many new gem discoveries were made in southern California during 1904. They included magnificent blue and white topaz, weighing more than a pound apiece, which as crystals quite equalled those of Siberia; beryls from 3 to 6 inches long and one or more inches in diameter, varying in color from pale green to a deep sea green tint; crystals of rose-colored beryl (a rare variety) found at Mesa Grande, Pala, and Hemet; axinite, a gem mineral not known until lately in good crystals in this country, but found in 1904 in beautiful crystals near Rincon; epidote in crystals only one inch long and one-eighth of an inch in diameter, but transparent; and magnificent red, green, and yellow tourmalines, found in abundance at Mesa Grande, Pala, and other localities in San Diego county.

Crystals of tourmaline that are very large and beautiful but have little value were found, for the first time in 1904, near Rumford Falls, Maine. Turquoise has been mined with some success at a number of localities in New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California. The semi-precious stone peridot, olivine, or chrysolite, as it is variously known, has been found in great quantities at Talklai, Ariz., immediately associated with or inclosed in volcanic rock. Thousands of beautiful gems, 1 to 5 carats in weight, were cut from this mineral and extensively sold throughout the United States. The entire output of 1904 and all previous outputs of the sapphires found at Yogo Gulch, Mont., have been disposed of at the present time by the companies that operate these mines from London.

How Some Senators Are Elected.

Rockford Star: Peculiar are the methods employed these dollar-mark days to reach a seat in the senate. It was the commercial spirit that caused the reelection of Chauncey M. Depew. Former Gov. Odell had the senator from Vanderbilt beaten. Then the erstwhile governor turned turtle and Depew was reelected. The bargain called for the placing of E. H. Harriman on the New York Central directory and Depew to pay Odell's losses in the ship building trust, said to amount to $125,000.

Senator Knox of Pennsylvania reached the senate by a similar commercial proceeding.

The story of the deal as published in the Pittsburg Times is that George T. Oliver, the Pittsburg millionaire refused to accept the place if obliged to assume the $300,000 notes he held signed by M. S. Quay, and that Cassatt, Frick and Archibald, the latter of the Standard Oil company, agreed to assume the notest and named as their man P. C. Knox.

Mr. Knox is a man of ability and may make a useful senator. But that $300,000 will have to be paid back in some way. It may not be by the actual return of the $300,000, commercial senators having a different way of meeting debts of honor. The corporations will get $300,000 worth of good out of Senator Knox.

That Tax on Hides.

One of the industries in which Gloversville and Johnstown are largely interested is shoe leather, and for some time there has been complaint that the tax on raw hides was a detriment to the local trade. Intended primarily to be a benefit to the cattle raisers, the statute has failed of its purpose, and one of its worst drawbacks is that it has hampered the shoe leather industry not only in Gloversville and Johnstown, but in other sections of the country. It would undoubtedly be of material benefit to the shoe leather dressers of this county and the men employed in the mills to have hides placed on the free list.—Johnstown (N. Y.) Herald.

The Way of All Trusts.

Mr. Garner is likely to find that the tobacco trust pursues methods by which it enriches its stockholders and officers by forcing down the price paid to growers on the one hand and by maintaining the prices exacted from consumers on the other.

When the war taxes were laid on tobacco in 1898 the trust reduced the quantity in its packages. Of that there could be no complaint so long as the reduction was no more than enough to cover the greater part of the tax, but when the tax was removed the trust did not make good the quantity or reduce the price.—Syracuse Telegram.

Taking a Rest.

Friend Crumpacker, having canvassed congress, finds that the southern representation question will have to go into cold storage.—Atlanta Constitution.

Forced to Starve.

B. F. Leek, of Concord, Ky., says: "For 20 years I suffered agonies, with a sore on my upper lip, so painful, sometimes, that I could not eat. After vainly trying everything else, I cured it with Bucklin's Arnica Salve." It's great for burns, cuts and wounds. At Hartz & Ullemeyer's drug store. Only 25 cents.

No More Stomach Troubles.

All stomach trouble is removed by the use of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. It gives the stomach perfect rest by digesting what you eat without the stomach's aid. The food builds up the body, the rest restores the stomach to health. You don't have to diet yourself when taking Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. J. D. Erskine, of Allenville, Mich., says: "I suffered heartburn and stomach trouble for some time. My sister-in-law has had the same trouble and was not able to eat for six weeks. She lived entirely on warm water. After taking two bottles of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure she was entirely cured. She now eats heartily and is in good health. I am glad to say Kodol gave me instant relief." Sold by all druggists.

All the news all the time — THE ARGUS.

DAILY SHORT STORY

THE DUCHESS PACHELLI.

[Original.]

The Duchess Pachelli sat in her boudoir reading the morning paper. It was winter, but the duchess was spending the season at her villa at Nice, and from her window, into which the warm sun shone, she could look down the quay lined with tropical plants.

"Twenty years," she mused, "since I came here, and what a change in my condition! What dangers I have passed to gain my present position! One by one I have got rid of all who could possibly drag me down. There was Nicholas Vassaliovitch, who knew more than he should know of my antecedents, but he has gone to Siberia. That was a neat job of mine, proving an innocent man's guilt. Then there was Constantin, whom I also led by the nose like my poodle till it suited me to try my ring on him, after which he died so suddenly that the police half suspected. Had he turned against me it would be I under the sod, not he." A troubled look flitted across her face. "Andreas may yet live, though it is ten years since I have heard from him. It was a bad failure, my putting the police on his track to arrest him, and the worst of it was that he knew I was the instigator. But I was inexperienced then, and, after all, we soldiers of fortune must make some mistakes, and I am conscious of having made but one. I hope Andreas has either died naturally or been executed under an assumed name. He was a vindictive man and"—

"Good morning, your grace."

A man with shocky red hair and freckles, dressed in the garb of a peasant, had stepped into her boudoir. The countess looked at him with all the hauteur she could summon.

"Your grace does not remember me," he said.

"I do not. I beg you will leave by the door you entered."

"Not till I have refreshed your memory. Twenty years ago a little peasant girl was a scullion in the villa of a family in this place. She was endowed with great beauty and, though she was but fourteen years old, had her lovers. Her brain was very quick, and she had a keen sense of the importance of getting on in the world. A young carpenter—Andreas, we will call him for the want of a better name—fell in love with her, and she, wishing to get out of the kitchen, married him. It was he who gave the little scullion her start. She studied hard and in two years knew enough to pass for a lady.

"This Andreas, her husband, adored his young wife, not yet eighteen, and as she wished to dress in keeping with her knowledge and her beauty he spent all he could make at his trade upon her. Then when he could not make enough to satisfy her demands she persuaded him to turn counterfeiter. She was shrewd enough not to be mixed up in his ruin when it came. Indeed, it was she who informed on him. But he was too quick for her and the police and fled to America.

"But Andreas' love, turned to hate, grew through the years, and as each year he sank lower he wished to return and take his revenge. But he never dared remain anywhere long enough to accumulate sufficient funds to make a journey which, after all, might lead to his arrest and imprisonment. At last he went to a new town in the far west and worked at his trade till he saved enough to go in search of his beautiful wife. He found that after he had left her she had ensnared a duke, that he had died and left her his fortune, that society had opened its exclusive doors to her, but a love for adventure and villainy had led her to take service as a spy for crowned heads—a Delilah to entrap the rulers' enemies—and that many a secret murder was laid up against her.

"And where, my good man," asked the duchess, deadly white, "did you learn all this?"

"I met in New York a Russian who, under the charge of being a Nihilist, had been sent to Siberia, from whence, after twelve terrible years of exile, he escaped and fled to America."

The duchess started. "His name?" she asked under her breath.

"Nicholas Vassaliovitch."

The duchess staggered as though struck by a blow and caught at the back of a chair.

"It was fortunate," the man continued, "the meeting of these men, Andreas and Nicholas, for they both wished for revenge. But neither would be safe in this old country, and so it looked as if the scullion duchess would end her days in peace, a pet of society, a favorite of the czar of Russia, rich and still beautiful. But both had been kind to the little scullion, and their love had turned to wrath. One possessed written proofs of one of the duchess' crimes. That proof is now in the hands of the czar of Russia and a requisition has been lodged with the government at Paris."

Suddenly the duchess stepped to a cabinet, opened a drawer, turned with a dagger in her hand and was about to spring upon the man when she saw that he had covered her with a revolver. Turning the weapon upon herself, she sank down on the floor.

"Gendarmes!" called the intruder.

Two policemen, headed by a man in citizen's dress, sprang up the stairs and into the room.

"Well ended," said the citizen. "This saves my imperial master much annoyance." Then, turning to the man who had called, he added, "Come with me and you shall have your passport for America."

BESSIE CHASE HAIGHT.