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.

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1905.

Nobody has the temerity to raise the army canteen question in Russia.

Tammany made a fatal mistake in counting the votes so close.

The first navigators of the Panama canal will be the financiers who float the bonds.

It is unfortunate that Gas Addicks was not running for something in the recent election.

The fire which consumed 810,000 gallons of whisky was anything but a steady blaze.

A bachelor girl, Miss Grace Stephenson, has become editor of the Lindsborg, Kans., News, which used to have this line over wedding announcements, "They Are Happy Now." The new editor has changed it to "They Are Happy—Now."

Mrs. Roosevelt has one well-developed hobby and that is the collecting of old china. Under her supervision one of the most valuable collections in this country has been placed on exhibition in the basement of the white house, and it is a proud day when she can add something of historic worth to the treasures. The exhibit is made up entirely of remnants of the dinner sets which formerly served the presidential families. It begins with some rare gold-trimmed plates and cups and saucers which were the pride of Martha Washington's heart and continues down to the era of Mrs. Ida Saxon McKinley.

Tri-City Press Club Adopts the Initiative.

The Tri-City Press club at its regular monthly meeting last evening adopted the initiative in the interests of the arsenal, particularly as it affects the welfare of labor under the stress of existing conditions. This was accomplished through the medium of a resolution instructing the club's general cooperative committee to memorialize congress protesting against the piece work system at present in vogue so far as it operates against labor, and likewise the recently adopted policy of the ordnance department in turning into the hands of private contractors the natural and legitimate products of the arsenal as a military manufacturing institution, and furthermore to seek to correct the impression created through the phraseology of the resolution adopted by the American Federation of Labor condemning the arsenal as a "sweat shop." In its adopted action the press club asks the indorsement of all bodies in the three cities whose object is the protection and development of the arsenal in common with all enterprises and industries identified with the community.

Relative to the piece work and contract systems as they pertain to labor conditions at the arsenal, the press club acts in accord with the same spirit and principle, considerate of the welfare of labor, that it does in deprecating the effect of the resolution of the American Federation of Labor which singles out Rock Island arsenal. None doubts the righteousness and the right of the great labor body in convention at Pittsburg in criticising oppressive labor conditions under federal supervision. But the exception is taken first to the application of a term which in its ordinary meaning and conception, infers foul and dingy accommodations and surroundings, and secondly to the special reference to this arsenal, and it is on this account that the general opinion prevails in the three cities that the federation could not have acted advisedly on the phase of the subject as it is applied here.

Rock Island arsenal is as far from being a sweat shop in both the inception and general understanding of the term as it is possible to imagine, and while the rules of the ordnance department as to the government of labor, may be, as they doubtless are, inimical to labor, and should be subject to reformation, the attack upon the character of the arsenal itself will, it is feared, prove more damaging to labor in remedying the other evils than advantageous. In the hands of the alert contractor the denunciatory resolution from the greatest representative body standing for the highest and truest type of labor, of Rock Island arsenal as a "sweat shop," could be used to accomplish the defeat of the very object it is sought most to attain—the holding secure to the arsenal of the manufacture of products that legitimately belong to it. Any effort to awaken congress or to arouse executive action to the evils of the contract system would be confronted with the resolution denouncing the arsenal as an unfit place for labor to be employed, and hence the operation of the resolution against the identical thing it is sought to accomplish.

From the present view of the case the American Federation of Labor would have better reached the seat of the trouble had the scope of its resolution pertained to the general tendency of the ordnance department as is in force at every arsenal, specifying instances, if such there are, of exceptional discrimination against labor at Rock Island arsenal, than in its sweeping allegation as to the nature of the shops.

It is the hope that, with the proper agitation which the press club has started, the influence of the private concern, both as it affects the conditions under which labor is employed at the arsenal and the grasping from the government of the class of manufacture that such plants as the arsenal were constructed at tremendous expense to manufacture, will be presently removed and that a better understanding may be reached as to the cause and effect of unfair conditions.

Can Such Things Be?

In 1896 gold standard advocates spoke in this vein.—

"Who wants to carry around a pocket full of silver dollar cart wheels, big, weighty and cumbersome? Who wants a dollar that will not pass as a dollar the world over, wherever he may chance to be? You think that the silver dollar you have in your possession is worth a dollar, don't you? But it isn't; it's worth only 52 cents. It's a dishonest dollar, but that's the kind of a dollar the silver men say shall be the standard. If they owe you $20, they want to pay you in silver dollars, —give you 10 for 20, 50 cents on the dollar. What we want, and what we must have, is money that will pass as currency the world over."

Remarking on this the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald calls attention to the fact that a gentleman who sought to purchase a ticket at a station on the Milwaukee roadroad offered in payment a $5 gold piece which showed some wear. The agent declined to receive it and called the traveler's attention to an order directing him not to receive any gold coins which showed wear. The traveler thereupon paid for his ticket with five silver dollars.

This incident occurred a few weeks ago, several years after the people said they wanted gold money that would pass as currency the world over, and not cumbersome silver dollars worth 52 cents.

FIELD OF LITERATURE.

Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co. announce that Randall Parrish's long expected work, "Historic Illinois: A Romance of the Early Days," will be ready about the middle of November. The scope of the work has developed much beyond the original plan, and the book will now be a large volume of some 500 pages, with over 50 illustrations. The work is a distinct contribution to the annals of the west, for comparatively few realize that no state of the union surpasses Illinois in the romantic incidents of the early days. These are full of color, action, and adventure, for above these peaceful plains and woods once waved the flag of four contending nations, while men of the white race and the red strove continually for mastery. Here came priest and soldier, honest settler and fleeing outlaw, noble and peasant, coureur de bois, and Canadian voyageur, each bearing his part in the great struggle of two centuries. The continual conflict with savagery, the conspiracy of Pontiac, the wars of the revolution and of 1812, and all their fields of battle on Illinois soil; and there is scarcely a county without its romantic legends, its interesting traditions of the past.

Our Failure in Japan.

There is a widespread delusion that the rise of Japan means the beginning of American trade ascendency in the Orient. Official records, however, show that our exports to Japan have been gradually declining, while those from Asia were vastly increasing. There is also a delusion that to cure a weak stomach you must resort to dieting and thus starve yourself. Up-to-date people, however, know different. They always keep a bottle of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in the house, and at the first sign of any ailment of the stomach, liver or kidneys take a few doses, with the result that they are always healthy. This is a good plan for every sick person to adopt. It cures headache, nervousness, biliousness, constipation, indigestion, dyspepsia, sleeplessness, chills, colds, or malaria. Don't fail to try it.

Every Ounce You Eat.

Every ounce of food you eat that fails to digest does a pound of harm. It turns the entire meal into poison. This not only deprives the blood of the necessary tissue-building material, but it poisons it. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure is a perfect digestant. It digests the food regardless of the condition of the stomach. Relieves belching, heartburn, sour stomach, indigestion, palpitation of the heart, etc. Sold by all druggists.

"Cure the cough and save the life." Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cures coughs and colds, down to the very verge of consumption.

DAILY SHORT STORY

THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA.

[Copyright, 1905, by Homer Sprague.]

Just when Mr. Nickelby became a reformist he could not fix by exact date. He had always had a fellow feeling for his fellow men and had always wished them to walk in straight paths, but he had arrived at middle age before this feeling began to lie heavily on his mind. When he started out in the reforming business there were people who called it a fad and referred to him as daffy, but no matter how good the cause there are people who will always speak ill of it.

Nickelby's family went to the country, and he occupied the house o' nights. One night at midnight he was awakened from his sound sleep by a hand being laid on his shoulder. He opened his eyes to see a stranger hovering over him.

"Mr. Nickelby," said the man, "I am a burglar. I have called to talk with you. I have taken the liberty of preparing a little lunch downstairs, and I should like to have you join me."

"This seems to be a gigantic piece of cheek," replied the reformist as he got slowly out of bed. "If I'd had one minute's notice I'd have been ready to send a bullet into you!"

"That's human inconsistency. For years you have been wanting to have a free, frank chat with a burglar and convince him of the error of his ways and bring about a reformation. I come at last, and you are sorry that you did not meet me with a bullet."

"But you have broken into my house;"

"But that is a part of my business. Having broken into your house as I have you cannot doubt that I am what I claim to be. Let us now go down to the lunch."

Mr. Nickelby didn't like it at all. He wanted all burglars to reform, but he wanted it done by programme. The lunch didn't amount to much. Aside from four ham sandwiches brought in by the burglar himself there were a bottle of wine taken from the cellar and a supply of cigars. The burglar motioned his host to a seat at the head of the table, passed him a sandwich and a glass of wine and then courteously said:

"Now go ahead and ask me any questions you will. It will be the first time I have ever submitted to an interview."

"This house is defended by a burglar alarm, and I don't see how you entered it," replied the reformist, who couldn't get over his feelings in the matter.

"Easy as pie, my dear sir. I had only to cut the wire outside the house. Do you wish to know why I became a burglar?"

"You can state the case if you wish, but tomorrow I'll raise hob with the police for not spotting you off before you got in here."

"Don't do it. Statistics will show that there are just as many burglaries now as before a policeman was invented. You would only be throwing your time away. At thirty years old I was a minister of a congregation in a country town. My salary was $200 a year and was behind half the time. I made the change in order to make a living. I have made an average of $5,000 a year as against you. Have you any criticisms to make? Have you anything as good to offer me if I will reform?"

"You'd get at least five years if arrested for breaking in here," sulkily replied the reformist.

"Not a doubt of it, but I shan't be arrested. If I promise to mend my ways can you get me a job of driving an ice wagon at $9 per week?"

"You ought to reform because it is wrong to be criminal."

"Oh, bad I? I ought to walk the streets looking for a job because I want to be an honest man. How about every alderman in town? How about every merchant? How about the tens of thousands of men who are cheating and swindling and robbing every day? Go to a man who sells coffee. It is 80 per cent adulteration. Will he stop because you say it is wrong?"

"But you are a burglar!"

"It is a distinction without a difference. Instead of robbing the city I rob one residence. Instead of mixing half cotton with my wool I use false keys to enter a dwelling. You are in the cloth business. There are more tricks in your trade than in mine. Are you willing to reform?"

"If you had come to me and said you wanted to reform I should have stood ready to—to"—

"Yes: go on. You would have stood ready to give me a dollar and your best advice, and within a week I would have been a starving man. It won't do, old fellow. It's all sawdust. We are all out for the dough, including yourself, and none of us is going to give up a good thing for the sake of free soup and a bed under a stairway. Cut it out and save your wind. Now, then, I have packed up a bundle in the hall. It contains a few pieces of silver, two suits of your clothes and a few other things. They are my perquisites, and if you object it will be the worse for you.

"I may come again at the end of three months. If I do I hope to hear that you have gone out of the cloth business and are selling toothpicks and giving full measure for the money. Perhaps I may be so situated as to offer you a dollar a day to drive an express wagon.

"Another glass of wine? No? Have a smoke? No again? Well, I'll bid you good night and be going. I stand ready to reform at any time, but I've got to have shoes for my feet and something for my stomach to work on in the new profession."

M. QUAD.

ABOUT THE COURT HOUSE.

COUNTY COURT.

Rock Island county court, Judge E. E. Parmenter presiding:

Probate.—Estate of Addie D. Crawford. Proof of publishing and posting notice to creditors filed and approved.

Estate of William P. Dower. Final report filed. Hearing thereon set for Dec. 15, 1905, at 9 o'clock a. m. Ordered to notify heirs by publication.

Estate of Henry Curtis. Proof of mailing appraiser's notice to all parties interested in property, to be assessed for the purpose of fixing the state inheritance tax, filed. Appraiser's report of value of estate for the purpose of assessing the state inheritance tax filed and approved.

Estate of James Shirkey. Proof of death filed. Will presented for probate. Petition for probate of will filed. Hearing on petition for probate set for Dec. 14, 1905, at 9 o'clock a. m.

Estate of Frederick Valentine. Proof of notice to heirs of final report and settlement filed.

Real Estate Transfers.—Mitchell & Lynde, by heirs, to State Bank of Rock Island, lot 3, block A, Old Town, Rock Island, $100,000.

James M. Buford to William Brandt, lot 4, block 12, Buford & Guyer's add., Rock Island, $260.

Saved by Dynamite.

Sometimes, a flaming city is saved by dynamiting a space that the fire cannot cross. Sometimes, a cough hangs on so long, you feel as if nothing but dynamite would cure it. Z. T. Gray, of Calhoun, Ga., writes: "My wife had a very aggravated cough, which kept her awake nights. Two physicians could not help her; so she took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, and finally cured her." Strictly scientific cure for bronchitis and la grippe. At Hartz & Uullemeyer's drug store, price 50 cents and $1; guaranteed. Trial bottle free.