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HOUSTON, TEXAS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1902.

12 PAGES TODAY.

BRYAN AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The editor of the New Orleans Times-Democrat recently telegraphed Mr. William Jennings Bryan asking him specifically if he would be a candidate for the presidency in 1904. To this telegram the Times-Democrat received the following reply:

Editor Times-Democrat, New Orleans, La.

Lincoln, Neb., August 6—Dear Sir: Because of the friendly interest which the Times-Democrat has taken in my candidacy in two campaigns I gladly answer your inquiry. I shall not be a candidate for the presidency in the next campaign, and, I may add, I have no choice beyond the desire to see some one nominated who was loyal not only to the ticket, but to the platforms of 1896 and in 1900, and who, if elected, could be trusted to stand by the people in their struggle against organized wealth.

While no one can look very far ahead or foresee the contingencies that may arise, I have no plans looking to a renomination at any future time.

I am deeply interested in the reforms for which I have been contending, and shall continue to advocate them. I am content to do my work as a private citizen, and am sure that I find more pleasure in my present position than I would in the distribution of patronage. If I am ever again a candidate for the presidency it will be because I am convinced that I can in that way give more effective aid to the cause in which I am enlisted for life, and I am not anxious to be convinced. I can not say more without prejudging events. Yours truly,

W. J. BRYAN.

Mr. Bryan is undoubtedly right in urging that some one be nominated who was loyal to the party in 1896 and 1900. The prodigal sons are to be welcomed and forgiven and the fatted calf is to be killed for them, but not even in the parable was the returned prodigal set over his faithful brother.

Of great significance is Mr. Bryan's statement of the real issue raised by the democratic party which is on the side of the people in their struggle against organized wealth. Fearlessly, clearly, righteously he formulates the issue. There is no equivocation, no straddling, no double-minded attempt to conciliate the people and the partisans of plunder. On behalf of the masses the gauntlet is boldly thrown down to the classes. The democratic party champions the cause of the people against organized wealth. Throughout the country the democrats recognize that Mr. Bryan is right and are marshaling themselves for the struggle in which they will gain the victory.

REPUBLICAN TARIFF REFORM.

Representative Babcock, the chairman of the republican congressional campaign committee, when recently brought to book by the evidence gathered by Chairman Griggs of the democratic congressional campaign committee, is reported to have attempted to brazen it out by exclaiming "What of it?" Chairman Griggs proved that as a result of the republican tariff keeping foreign goods out of this country our manufacturers are selling American goods to Americans at a higher price than they are selling the same goods to foreigners.

But just as when the democrats aroused the country over the iniquities of the colonial policy in the Philippines, the republicans weakened and the president began to say that the time may come when we will give the Filipinos independence, and just as when the public clamor arose against the trusts, which the democrats have been denouncing since their extortions began, the president began to talk of the necessity of new and special anti-trust legislation and summoned Representative Littlefield of Maine in conference to frame a bill, so the republicans have weakened on the tariff question. The country has recently been treated to the spectacle of the New York Tribune, the leading republican paper, as a Saul among the prophets. The Tribune has become a tariff reformer, which is truly a wonderful conversion. Its Washington correspondent in a recent issue says that there is a tariff reform movement started among the republicans of Iowa which is of "vast significance." He cites Iowa as "perhaps the most thorough and typical republican State in the Union," and argues that "if tariff revision sentiment has taken root there it will grow and spread out over all the republican sections of the country in short order, and that the sooner the party managers give to this fact its due importance in all their calculations for the present and the future, the better for the party and the country." As Mr. Boone Gross, one of the vice presidents of the Little Rock Cooperage company, said in Houston the other day with regard to the steel trust's selling cheaper abroad than at home, "when an infant industry gets big enough to wear long pants it should have its whiskers cut." The American people, irrespective of party, are beginning to realize this.

TROUBLE FROM CUBA.

The proposition of Cuba to issue $35,000,000 of bonds challenges the force of the Platt amendment. The Platt amendment, which was accepted by Cuba, provides that Cuba shall contract no obligations unless the surplus of receipts over expenses is sufficient to pay the interest on the borrowed money and to provide a sinking fund to redeem the principal. It is stated by financiers that there is an apparent deficit in the Cuban treasury, or at least that the revenue prospect does not warrant this bond issue.

The position the United States occupies is this: That, having forced or persuaded Cuba to adopt the Platt amendment, which limits Cuba's rights to contract financial obligations, the failure of the United States to interfere and prevent the issue of the bonds might be taken as a guarantee of their payment on the part of the government. This guarantee might be repudiated by this government in the case of our own citizens or individual foreign bondholders, but if there should be enough foreign bondholders to influence a foreign government to take up their cause a great deal of trouble might arise. The United States is strong enough not to be afraid of any government in the world. It is not coercion that is to be feared in such a case, but the moral pressure and the annoyance that would inevitably result in a matter the equities of which are difficult of determination.

Here is the first of the great disadvantages which have resulted from the republican policy of giving Cuba partial independence and retaining in our own hands a supervision over the island which carries with it a certain responsibility and an uncertain profit. A second trouble is looming up on the horizon. The Cuban congress threatens the property of the Catholic church, settled by the American governor, which is another violation of the Platt amendment. The reciprocity trouble we have with us, too. It is stated that Cuba wants us to hold a special session of congress in September to consider a reciprocity treaty. Altogether this ward over whom we have appointed ourselves guardian has given us and continues to give us a very fair amount of trouble.

KING EDWARD should at least have hung onto Osborne house a while longer, as perhaps he might have prevailed upon one of his physicians to accept it in partial payment of his bill.

IT IS said that the Illinois populists will hold their State convention by mail.

THAT amnesty which Colonel Arthur Lynch expected would be granted him upon the king's coronation seems to have been side-tracked along with Mrs. Maybrick's pardon.

THE United States is a nation of a million pensioners and sixty-nine million persons who would like to be.

RUSSELL SAGE is 84 years of age, and his life teaches young men that they also may become wealthy and despised if they are only mean and stingy enough.

NOW THAT the coronation is over, King Edward will doubtless say to his physicians, "Operate when you are ready, gentlemen."

CONNECTICUT cities are to celebrate an "old home week." We presume it is celebrated by everybody going away from home and enjoying themselves.

TALKING ABOUT HOUSTON.

We are glad to note that crime is on the decrease in Houston. We hope to get this in print before another killing takes place in the Bayou City.—*Elgin Leader.*

A negro named W. S. Chinn, pastor of the colored Methodist church in Lake Charles, was fined yesterday in that city $100 and costs for carrying a pistol. Some days ago a negro was fined $200 and costs in Houston for the same offense. This is all very well. We believe in giving these offenders the full limit of the law, but, however great the temptation to do so, we do not favor a greater penalty for the negro than for the white. They are criminals alike and of the same moral color. Give them the same medicine.—*Orange Daily Tribune.*

The Hopeful Word.

Atlanta Journal.

The wonderful influence of a hopeful word is not always fully appreciated, otherwise there would be more sunshine in the world. Several years ago Mr. Frank L. Stanton published a few lines in the Constitution to which he attached no special merit. They were written and committed to the world without a thought that they would ever be heard from again. Within one week two letters were received by the poet. The first was from a gentleman in Kansas City to the effect that he had fully determined upon suicide, but that the piece of paper which he unfolded from his package of poison proved to be a scrap from the Constitution upon which was printed the lines in question, thus:

KEEP A-GOIN'!

If you strike a thorn or rose,
Keep a-goin'!
If it hails, or if it snows,
Keep a-goin'!
'Taint no use to sit and whine
When the fish ain't on your line;
Bait your hook an' keep a-tryin'—
Keep a-goin'!

When the weather kills your crop
Keep a-goin'!
When you tumble from the top,
Keep a-goin'!
S'pose you're out of every dime,
Gittin' broke ain't any crime,
Tell the world you're feelin' fine—
Keep a-goin'!

When it looks like all is up,
Keep a-goin'!
Drain the sweetness from the cup,
Keep a-goin'!
See the wild birds on the wing,
Hear the bells that sweetly ring,
When you feel like singin' sing—
Keep a-goin'!

"I resolved to desist from my purpose," the letter went on, and the writer went on to tell of how the next day brought him hope and comfort.

The second letter was from a Boston gentleman, who had the poem set to music and distributed one million copies. There is hardly a day that Mr. Stanton does not receive a letter from some one to acknowledge the new hope which he has gained from the lines and the firm resolves for renewed effort built thereupon. Even the plagiarist has played his part in trying to claim the work, only to bring the genuine author sincere protests against such injustice to him. Like the word kindly spoken, the promise of hope lights up many a dreary landscape and spreads sunshine wherever it goes.

Carmack Tells a Story.

Senator Carmack, who is in Washington co-operating with Chairman Griggs of the democratic congressional committee, is not always the hot-blooded, passionate debater that some people take him to be. Aside from being a genial, even jovial companion, he is one of the best and most entertaining story tellers in public life. Mr. Carmack, having been a newspaper man himself for a number of years, takes the attacks made on him by his former fellow-craftsmen with considerable equanimity. While seated after hours a few evenings ago with a party of newspaper correspondents, Senator Carmack, who had been referring to the fun which had been poked at him by the various correspondents because of his position on the Philippine question, said:

"Well, boys, you can go as far as you like with me. I have been a newspaper man myself and frequently said unpleasant things about people. It reminds me of a little story of a man in our town who is not very tall, and who is so bow-legged that he seems to be bowed all over. He has plenty of muscle, however, and a great deal of grit. Some time ago, he became involved in a dispute with a husky six-footer who, tired of the argument, advanced on his opponent with a threatening air and said: 'Confound you, you little runt, I've a notion to chaw your guzzle.' At this the little fellow bristled up and, gathering himself together, stretched his neck in the direction of his big adversary and replied savagely: 'I've been raised mostly on chawed guzzle, so sail in.' All that I can say to you boys is that I too have been mostly raised on chawed guzzle, so sail in.'"

THE INIQUITOUS BEEF TRUST.

(From the New York Herald.)

Evasion is confession.

By dodging investigation in open court and interposing a technical demurrer in the Federal suit to permanently enjoin their alleged conspiracy, the packers constituting the beef trust may be regarded as virtually admitting the damning evidence presented by the Herald, and on which the government's temporary injunction was obtained.

When the Herald began its exposure of this soulless combine for exacting extortionate prices from the poor for a prime necessary of life the packers blustered and professed that they would like nothing better than a judicial inquiry into their methods. They sang another tune, however, when the Herald piled up the facts of the conspiracy—the agreement on cartage charges, the concerted blacklisting of retail dealers, the combination for holding back cattle from the Western centers and for fixing arbitrary prices for beef in Eastern markets.

As the documentary proofs of the conspiracy were unearthed and published in our columns the representatives of the trust stopped blustering and suddenly fled with their books and papers beyond the jurisdiction of the New York State authorities. The Federal government's longer arm, however, reached after them and, on the evidence furnished through the Herald, a temporary injunction was granted at Chicago by Judge Grosscup, restraining the members of the trust from alleged conspiracy in restraint of trade. And now, when the government moves to have that injunction made permanent, what is the answer of the packers?

Do they welcome the opportunity to bring their books and papers into court and endeavor to show that the conduct of their business was legitimate? On the contrary, they do not attempt to deny the facts, but resort to legal technicalities to prevent the case getting before the court on its merits. The convincing nature of the evidence brought to light by the Herald is shown by the fact that it is the basis of the suits brought against the beef trust by the prosecuting officers of New York and other States. If anything were lacking to a complete moral demonstration of the case against the combination it would be supplied by the manner in which it has receded from its pretended desire for investigation and seeks to evade the issue. Until this is decided the injunction remains effective—a splendid result of the Herald's exposure of the soulless and grasping combination.

Meanwhile our Chicago dispatches report that three of the larger members of the trust are absorbing other packing concerns, with the purpose of merging with them into a more definite combination, by means of "a holding company" which shall own the shares of all. It is said that two very strong interests refuse to join in this scheme, so that even if it should be consummated there presumably might be room for competition, whereas under the secret agreement there was absolute monopoly. But the proposed combination is clearly opposed to public policy and should not be permitted. If several packing companies choose to consolidate into one corporation, well and good. The larger unit can be regulated by law, the public knows where to find it, and if it tries to exact extortionate prices to pay dividends on inflated capitalization the way will be open for competition.

But the "holding company" scheme, whereby the several distinct corporations would remain in existence, each conducting an ostensibly separate business, but all controlled by one hand, is vicious root and branch and should not be permitted. It is contended that there is nothing in the law to prevent an individual from owning a controlling interest in the several companies, and that an artificial individual known as a corporation can do the same. This will not hold. The protection of a natural person's many rights is necessary to society, and it might not be expedient to interfere if incidentally he should acquire control of several corporations. For the community to tolerate such an incident is one thing, but it is quite another to create by its own power an artificial person for the very purpose of exercising such obnoxious control. A natural person's life is limited, and the laws carefully provide against the permanent tying up of an individual estate, whereas a corporation is endowed with perpetuity. In fact, the idea of any individual controlling such an outfit as the proposed combination of packing corporations to be represented by a "holding company" with a capitalization of $150,000,000 is not within the realm of practical discussion.

The aims and methods of the men who are at the head of these corporations are now fully exposed: the public today has competition in the trade in meats, and no underhand combination through a "holding company" should be tolerated.

SOME LEADING EDITORIALS.

INTERNATIONAL EPISODE.

(From the Indianapolis Sentinel.)

A special to the Chicago Chronicle announces that international complications may result "from the wanton interference by a mounted police with the carriage in which Mrs. Squiers, the wife of the United States minister at Havana, was riding." It states that the policeman "spoke insultingly" to the lady, and adds:

"Mrs. Squiers promptly informed her husband, and the latter immediately notified the mayor. The executive of the capital offered an apology, but Mr. Squiers insisted upon adequate punishment for the offender. If this is not forthcoming the American minister will demand from the government an investigation of the officer's conduct."

The details of the affair furnished by the Associated Press present the matter in a different light. Mrs. Squiers hired a carriage to make a call, and put a footman on the box with the driver, which is prohibited by a city ordinance of Havana. The carriage was stopped in front of the Hotel Inglaterra, and the footman was sent in to announce Mrs. Squiers, it being contrary to the city ordinance for a vehicle to stand in front of the hotel.

The policemen on the beat ordered the carriage to be driven on, and also notified the footman that he must not sit on the box. He told them that the lady was the wife of the American minister, and the policemen insisted that law was law. Whereupon Mrs. Squiers got out and walked, and Squiers complained. The mayor of the city has apologized. The city council has expressed regret. The policemen have been suspended. And Squiers is insisting that they be further punished by discharge or he will raise further disturbance.

President Roosevelt ought to get out his megaphone and call Mr. Squiers home as soon as possible. He has no business in Cuba. We have just got through teaching the Cubans how they may be benefited by the strict enforcement of law, and now this ass wants officers punished for doing their duty. It would be more appropriate for the United States to apologize for sending a minister who imagines that he and his family are privileged to violate local laws at will.

HOMING PRINCIPLES.

(From the Charleston News and Courier.)

The sale of our protected manufactures in foreign countries at far lower prices than they are sold in the United States appears to be as little approved by some foreign authorities as by home purchasers. The matter is explained in an interesting way by the New York Evening Post:

Finance Minister Witte's official organ in St. Petersburg, it says, represents him as dissatisfied with the reception of the note inviting the powers to confer about trusts, "the evil of which he was particularly desirous of curbing being the practice of selling goods cheaper to foreign countries than to the domestic consumer." He appears, however, like a man who "had made a preliminary move which he knew would fail, but which would leave him in better position to attain his real objective." His next step, as broadly hinted by his organ, will be "the imposing of differential duties corresponding to the price at which imported goods are sold in Russia and the country where they are manufactured," in the same way as the United States has imposed such duties on bounty grown sugar imported into this country from Russia. If, for example, it is further explained, an American sewing machine is sold in Russia for $12, while it is sold in the United Sattes for $30, Mr. Witte's plan is to clap on an extra Russian duty of $18. This, it is pointed out, would not be discrimination against American goods as such, but only a necessary measure of self-defense against predatory foreign syndicates. Also, it would have the effect of giving much "protection" to Russian manufacturers, and the development of home industries is as dear to Mr. Witte as it is to any American statesman. The Evening Post expresses the belief that the Russian minister seriously contemplates some such step as "a tariff discrimination against imports of trust-made goods," and adds:

"His government, it must be remembered, is autocratic. There is no parliament or congress in Russia to make trouble, to be cajoled or coerced. An imperial decree will do the business. And M. Witte's defense of such an action, under international law, would not be without plausibility. It would be especially valid against Americans. We already lay a discriminating tax on Russian sugar for a reason very similar to that which M. Witte advances for imposing a differential duty on American locomotives and bridges and petroleum—that is, for being sold too cheap. The Dingley law, we gravely tell the Russians, compels us to levy a countervailing duty on bounty-grown sugar—on sugar, that is, which by government aid is sold cheaper abroad than at home. 'Precisely,' M. Witte will restort, 'and I am in the same way compelled to tax American goods which are sold here at a lower price than at home. So we are quits.'

"In another way, too, would our mouths be shut. The 'dumping' of foreign goods on our shores was for years a subject of furious complaint by our noble protectionists. They raged against it in the press and in congress. They passed laws to prevent it, and incidentally to put money in their own pockets. Everybody knows that the nefarious practice of foreign manufacturers in 'dumping' their surplus upon us at prices which took the bread out of the mouths of our millionaire mill owners was long one of the deadly sins in the eyes of Americans. Of course, they are not now ready to admit that they are doing anything of the kind to the Russians. They are just benevolently making it possible for the starving Russian mujik to have a few more of the good things of life. They feel quite like missionaries in selling their surplus to him so cheap. But we fear that M. Witte and his pet manufacturers will call it 'dumping,' all the same, and will send our own chickens home to roost."

We may hope so, at any rate, and that other European statesmen and manufacturers will follow the very proper and good Russian example. There can be no question of the justice and righteousness of their action in that line, as determined by American principle and practice—and it is to be borne in mind always that in any fight they may make on that line they will fight also for the contemned American consumer. It will be a strange development surely if that long-suffering victim of the trusts and protected interests shall find his deliverance at last at the hands of one or more of the foreign governments.

CUBAN INCOME AND OUTGO.

(From the New York Mail and Express.)

It is natural that the press of Havana, usually discordant, should be unanimous in defending the proposed Cuban loan. As has been pointed out, the pressure of the public demand for immediate financial relief, extending throughout the island and expressed by planter and laborer alike, has proved potent in the Havana congress. It may be expected to exert its influence also over the newspapers.

The contention is now made that it is not true that the constitution would be violated by the issue of $35,000,000 of bonds, for the reason that the revenues are, or will be, ample to meet the interest and provide a sinking fund. But this is mere assertion. It is made editorially, not officially. Every friend of Cuba would rejoice if the statement could be shown to be correct. But the treasury department of President Palma's administration has maintained a persistent silence about its affairs ever since the republic came into existence. Throughout our own military government of intervention the financial transactions of the custom houses were as open to public inspection as were the appropriations. But since the withdrawal of our authority there has been no official statement of either receipts or expenditures. It follows that all calculations must be based upon the knowledge of Cuban finances that was available before the departure from the island of General Wood, the military governor, and Colonel Bliss, the collector of customs.

It is known that the maximum yearly revenue at that time was $16,000,000. There was left in the treasury a cash surplus of less than $1,000,000. The fixed charges of administration were then nearly equal to the income. It is also known that the cost of administration would be increased under native rule, because of more salaries for civil officials whose duties had been performed by army officers paid out of the United States treasury; because of the salaries of members of congress, and because of a larger police force made necessary by the withdrawal of our troops. For these reasons the yearly expenses of the Cuban republic have been estimated at $27,000,000. In the meantime, it is known, though unofficially, that the revenues have decreased.

These are disagreeable facts. They can not be changed by all the type in the Havana newspaper offices, nor by the clamor of a mob at the doors of the Cuban congress. It will be hard to base a loan upon an obvious deficit.

Julia Marlowe's Answer.

Asked what the stage holds for the American girl, Julia Marlowe replies, in the Pilgrim for August:

"What the stage holds for the American girl depends largely on that young person herself—perhaps one is justified in saying that it depends almost solely upon her. If she is ambitious for a stage career, the result of her ambitions will be shaped by her own attitude toward the stage. It will turn out to be exactly the kind of an institution she imagines it to be, and her conduct in working out her professional career will find its reflex in the treatment the stage accords her.

"If she thinks of the stage as an institution alert to recognize and reward intelligent, earnest effort, and if she is willing patiently and constantly to give it that effort, she will find that it is an institution of worth and dignity. If she seeks it as an escape from her appointed duties in life and if she yearns to be an actress for the sake of a measure of cheap publicity and a round of empty, garish and demoralizing diversions, she probably will find her expectations realized—that is, if she possesses a certain kind of personal attractiveness and very little self-respect. There is, perhaps, no other walk in life where lack of ability is so tolerably rewarded, but the rewards, such as they are, are likely soon to lose their savor for even the most thoughtless and feather-brained."

A Horrible Scandal.

New York Evening Post.

A horrible scandal has developed at Philadelphia. It has been discovered there that when the city council, about a year ago, gave away, without a penny of compensation for the municipality, franchises worth many millions of dollars, a clause was inserted by somebody with the evident purpose of safeguarding the people's rights in one particular. The details of this betrayal of the very private interests which "owned" the council are shrouded in mystery, like most deeds of darkness. But there the clause is, in the ordinance granting the franchise. "Said motors," it says, "to be supplied from underground wires, or such other system as shall not require overhead wires or poles." Of course the first impulse of the Philadelphia officials and their intimates who are said to be "behind" the franchise deal, on learning of the existence of this restriction, was to find out the name of the miscreant who inserted it. Members of the council who had previously borne untarnished reputations for "standing without hitching" fell under suspicion. But second thought is better than first impulse. It soon became clear that nothing, not even the enforcement of discipline, should be permitted to delay the undoing of the mischief. The city council is to be asked at once to repeal the clause in question. Time enough to hunt the offender after this is accomplished!

The Negro Will Not Migrate.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The orators of Quinn chapel who had the negative of the question, "Resolved, that for his future good the American negro should migrate to Africa or some other undeveloped country," must attribute much of their success to advantage in position. For this is one of the few questions for which it is really difficult to discover two sides.

The negro is attached to this country now like the white man. He is a native of long descent here, his home and his work are naturally here, and here is his opportunity. He is always less of a pioneer than the white man, but white men are not going to such undeveloped countries as those to which he is directed. What is proposed is that he shall be located close to millions of uncivilized blacks, where the chances of his retrogression are much greater than the chances of their civilization. He prefers rather to stay where there are numberless helpful agencies about him, and great would be his folly if he did not.

His problem is not how to get away from the United States, but how to make the most of his American citizenship.

The Frenchiness of Quebec.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Quebec, although belonging to the Dominion of Canada, and, therefore, to the crown of England, is literally a French province by heredity, language, customs and sympathy. It strikes one as rather curious to see far more French than English flags flying in this territory, which owes allegiance to King Edward. The city of Quebec, with an alleged population of 70,000, only counts about 15,000 English-Canadians in that number, and they are permitted to take a back seat in all official associations and pick up such crumbs only as remain after the gentlemen of France are satisfied.

Not that there is any question of loyalty to the government, so far as I could see, but blood is thicker than water, and the ancestors of these good people came from France and not from England. It is this national instinct, reproduced in architecture, that makes Quebec the most picturesque and probably most curious city on this continent, New Orleans being its only possible competitor.

TAMPERING WITH TRIFLES.

By J. M. LEWIS.

'F I WAS RICH.

Ever' time vacation time
Comes around ter me
I've jest fixed it how I'll climb
Out o' things an' see
Things 'at I ain't never seen,
Mountain slopes an' sich;
Wide old valleys carved in green—
Gosh! if I was rich
Couldn't hold me nowheres, no!
Couldn't hold me 'tall!
Swear 'at I'd be on the go
Till I'd seen it all!

Till I'd climb up ev'ry peak
In the world, I would!
Till I'd swim in ev'ry creek
'At was any good!
Bet I'd rubber all aroun',
Couldn't stop me, no!
Till God pulled the curtains down
I'd be on the go!
When vacation time is near
How my soul does itch
Jest ter git away f'm here—
Gee! if I was rich!

Poverty's an awful mess,
Jest ter grind an' vex us!
Still, if I was rich, I guess—
Guess I'd stay in Texas.
I might sometime scoot afar,
But I'd soon be comin'
Back ter where th' mockbirds are,
An' the bees are hummin';
But when my vacation time
Swings around ter me,
Bet 'at I'd git out an' climb,
'F I was rich, by gee!

✦ ✦ ✦

CALLING THE TURN.

"Mr. Gayboy is a man of exquisite taste, isn't he?"
"So he's finally proposed, has he?"

✦ ✦ ✦

GOING UP.

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal,"
Though we'll look to'ard it with longing
When we buy next season's coal.

✦ ✦ ✦

TERRIBLE.

"Have you seen anything of Jack Poorman?" asked Miss Millions of her friend. "I refused him last week, and he threatened to do something desperate."

"Well, he carried out his threat all right. Papa says he struck him for a job yesterday."

✦ ✦ ✦

ONE GOT AWAY.

"Are any of your people in real estate?" asked the inquisitive one.

"All of my ancestors are," replied F. A. Cetious, "with the exception of one who was lost at sea."

✦ ✦ ✦

ON TICK.

"Why does she call her stockings 'clocked'?"
Asked curious little Dick.
"I know," replied his sister wee,
"It's 'cause they're bought on tick."

EXCHANGE INTERVIEWS.

A Missouri editor in the home department of his paper says "Never spank a child on a full stomach." This is eminently correct. The spanking spot is located on the opposite side of the child's anatomy.—*Bowie Cross Timbers.*

That's right, and the place to spank him is on your knee.

✦ ✦ ✦

A Houston bartender drank rat poison the other day from which he died. Houston must have pretty rocky whisky. Will Alkali Eye kindly explain the situation? Is Houston whisky so bad that a man prefers rat poison, or was the bartender crazy, most esteemed Eye?—*Laredo Times.*

We have about concluded that he took the rat poison as a result of a habit of drinkin' in the dark—like we took horse medicine once.—*Alkali Eye.*

✦ ✦ ✦

The Houston Post is after the pistol toter, in the sense that it is holding him up before the public as a very bad man and one who needs to be suppressed.—*Weatherford Herald.*

And isn't The Post right?

✦ ✦ ✦

The Houston Post, noting an editorial reference in this paper to "Force," says if we are not getting paid for it, we are "giving away some mighty good advertising space." Isn't that a dead give away, Lewis?—*Waco Times-Herald.*

Exactly.

✦ ✦ ✦

A big dry goods ad in The Houston Post pictures a clerk in his shirt sleeves waiting on a throng of lady customers. Two garments and a pair of shoes are probably considered plenty 'nough for any Houston gent.—*Clarksville Times.*

Come in out of the woods; that was a shirtwaist.

✦ ✦ ✦

We want a first class, wide-awake correspondent at every school house in the county and adjoining counties—one who will give the news of the neighborhood and leave the unnecessary out.—*Hico News.*

How would you like to have the schoolmarm?

✦ ✦ ✦

Some men can write poetry who couldn't possibly stammer an apology for stepping on a woman's train.—*Dallas Times-Herald.*

As a usual thing they are not so clumsy as to make such an apology necessary.

✦ ✦ ✦

Editor Vernon of the Lampasas Leader sold a third interest in his paper and bought a cattle ranch all in the same week.—*San Antonio Express.*

How large is the ranch, and how many cattle? A third interest in the average country print shop would purchase about one old cow and a "dogey." We hope, however, that Editor Vernon has done better than that.—*Waxahachie Spectator.*

We hope so. What's a "dogey"?

✦ ✦ ✦

The Times is 17 years old this week. Somebody come and kiss us.—*Throckmorton Times.*

You have our congratulations, but we are saving our kisses until the Bartlett News is 17.

Youthful Criminals.

Beaumont Journal.

Houston, Beaumont, Corsicana and many other cities and towns in Texas and elsewhere are finding the bad boy problem a very hard one to solve. What to do with these precocious youngsters is engaging a good deal of attention just now, and law-makers and those who enforce the law are worrying considerably over it. In London, where a bad boy epidemic seems to have broken out, they send them to the training ships and put them in the way of becoming useful to the country in the naval department, but Texas can't do that, what, therefore, can she do? It won't do to send them to the common prison and allow them to herd with hardened criminals; that would not be fair nor just to them nor citizens, for by doing so we would be simply manufacturing criminals. Texas needs and should have a juvenile reformatory or some place where useful trades could be taught while reformation or a punishment, is at the same time exercised. Some think that city play grounds or places where boys could go and amuse themselves in a wholesome, unrestrained fashion, so necessary to their enjoyment, would prevent their wrong-doing, and there is considerable reason in the suggestion. On this latter subject—public play grounds—the Journal has clipped from an exchange the following, which it believes will be interesting to its readers:

"Play grounds greatly lessen the juvenile mischief that often runs into crime. A noted lecturer says permanent play grounds in cities are important moral helps and that the police department in London reported many years ago that crime was largely repressed by giving children a chance to work off their surplus energy in play. New York city made the same discovery, and not only provides sufficient play grounds for the schools, but is rapidly adding to the number of small parks and open spaces in crowded places. Play for the children presents itself to sociologists in those cases as a natural right, the disregard of which runs up as a black score against a community."