

THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1900. Vol. 33, No. 119. OCTOBER CIRCULATION. W. B. Carr, Business Manager of the St. Louis Republic, being directed, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the daily and Sunday Republic printed during the month of October, 1900, all in regular editions, was as per schedule below:

Table with 2 columns: Date, Copies. Rows include Oct 1 (84,980), Oct 2 (84,130), Oct 3 (84,030), Oct 4 (83,720), Oct 5 (83,320), Oct 6 (85,660), Oct 7 (86,920), Oct 8 (84,750), Oct 9 (83,470), Oct 10 (83,830), Oct 11 (83,560), Oct 12 (84,760), Oct 13 (85,890), Oct 14 (86,750), Oct 15 (84,750), Oct 16 (84,290). Total for the month: 2,652,050.

Net number distributed... 2,586,232. Average daily distribution... 83,426. And sold W. B. Carr further says that the number of copies returned or reported unsold during the month of October was 1.6 per cent.

SWORN to and subscribed before me this thirty-first day of October, 1900. J. F. FARBER, Notary Public of St. Louis, Mo. My term expires April 25, 1901.

SHELDON'S INSPECTION.

St. Louisans will thank Ethical Lecturer Walter L. Sheldon for his recent inspection of the city's eleemosynary institutions and for his report of the facts he found. These facts should be brought to the public notice wherever possible.

Improvement of eleemosynary institutions is one of the most urgent needs of the city. The need is second in urgency only to clean streets, open sewers, street lights and wholesome water.

Under the present municipal administration none of these municipal needs are receiving attention. While the last appropriation bill was under consideration and while there was a chance to fill such urgent needs as clean streets and open sewers, the Municipal Assembly chose rather to appropriate the city's funds to the payment of the salaries of officeholders who gave little or no return for the money they drew from the city treasury.

GENTLE HIGHWAYMEN.

If a man must be held up on the King's highway it is ever so much more agreeable to all concerned that it be done gently and calmly, without unseemly oaths, vulgar exclamations, nervous pokes in the face by the pistol of the highwayman or a tap on the head with a "billy" or slungshot.

Those proposing to enter the highwayman business, under the fostering auspices of a one-man power administration that looks for street lights to the moon, should bear in mind that Dick Turpin and Jack Shepherd gained immortal fame in their calling by the gentleness and mildness with which they "lifted" the possessions of their victims. They should remember that Dick Turpin still lives in song and story because once, when a very charming lady was a passenger in a stage coach he held up, he tripped a measure on the greensward with her before the eyes of the men he had lightened of their valuables.

St. Louis has just captured in the dark districts a pair of such highwaymen and they are a great improvement on Micky Mack and Piggy McCulloch. They are well dressed and smooth shaven, are calm in demeanor and considerate in action and use no oaths and only enough of the lingo to be interesting and to vindicate the thoroughness of their knowledge of their vocation. They are as mild-mannered a pair of men as ever cut a throat or scuttled a ship.

REVIVAL INDICATED.

There promises to be a revival of street making in St. Louis after next April such as St. Louis has not seen since the main downtown thoroughfares were paved with granite blocks over twenty years ago. We see such symptoms as the paving of a number of streets in various parts of the city by property owners by private contract and the clamor from private owners in other parts of the city that the city pay its share of the improvement of other streets.

Property owners in St. Louis living on unpaved streets have been chary of giving their consent to the improvement of their streets because they distrusted the present municipal administration and feared that they would have to pay money for streets built defectively under inadequate or ineffect inspection. This was one of the principal reasons why the Charter amendments proposed some two years ago were so

signally defeated by the people of St. Louis.

With an honest, able, businesslike administration in St. Louis there would not only be money on hand with which the city could pay its share of the work, but the abutting property owners against whom the major portion of the cost would be assessed would not fight the improvement so hard.

A magnificent street-making revival should come in St. Louis after next April. Then a Municipal Assembly will be placed in power which in considering street-making measures will place more stress on the need of the city than on the importunities of interested property owners. Street-improvement measures should be passed in quantities, and the work under them should progress with earnestness and energy.

TWO MARKED DEFECTS.

An able paper on the Pollution of Public Water Supplies in the United States, submitted at the recent meeting of the Indianapolis of the American Public Health Association, and published by Engineering News, gives the requirements of a water supply as to quality, as follows:

- (a) It shall be free, or substantially free, from disease-producing germs. (b) It shall be clear and colorless, or very nearly so, containing no objectionable turbidity or visible stain. (c) It shall be free from objectionable tastes and odors as supplied to the consumer. (d) It shall be free from considerable amounts of dissolved iron, such as unfit it for household use. (e) It shall be free from excessive amounts of lime and magnesia, such as make a water too hard for ordinary use. (f) It shall be free from constituents capable of dissolving metal used in distributing pipes.

It may be taken for granted that the requirements first enumerated are the most important. Slight consideration will show their superior importance. The water supply of St. Louis, while meeting all the minor requirements, fails utterly and deplorably in the most essential particulars. The water is under suspicion of carrying disease-producing germs. It is not clear or colorless and has both an objectionable turbidity and a vegetable stain.

Any water which is lacking in any of the requirements enumerated is considered by the American Public Health Association as in need of purification. St. Louis's water supply, failing in the two most important requirements, is decidedly in need of such measures.

With this postulate established the question is: How shall the water be purified? Change to a purer and clearer supply is out of the question. The only change suggested would involve the private ownership of St. Louis's Waterworks and would give no direct promise of remedying the evils which at present afflict St. Louis's water supply.

Filtration is the remedy indicated. In this connection the American Health Association points out the inefficiency shown by some municipal filters now in use and compels the conclusion that the science of water purification has not as yet reached a high stage of development.

"While there has been rapid progress during the past four years in discovering the controlling laws of purification," it says, "and in the establishment of certain types of filters, there are indications which show that material progress and improvement may be expected for some time to come."

From this expert, disinterested analysis of the present status of water purification it can logically be inferred that the proper course for a municipality which has decided upon water purification is to make investigations and experiments on its own account to supplement the meager and defective knowledge which engineers have on the subject at present.

St. Louis's course is to make an appropriation for experiments with St. Louis's water supply at St. Louis which shall demonstrate beyond doubt or conjecture the precise method which will be most effective and the precise management of that method which will be most economical.

This is the course which the Board of Public Improvements has mapped out and to which the Municipal Assembly has entered its veto. Another Municipal Assembly with other notions of its public duty will probably be elected next April and St. Louis can then proceed with its purification work unhampered.

ON FAULTY PREMISES.

Americans will observe the experiment in journalism which the Reverend Doctor Parkhurst says will soon be made in New York, with as much sympathetic interest as they observed the experiment in journalism which was tried in Topka recently under the direction of the Reverend Charles M. Sheldon. The newspaper whose appearance Doctor Parkhurst heralds is "to print all the news, to tell the truth always and to lead public opinion, without considering the effect of this course on its incomes." The newspaper, Doctor Parkhurst declares, will be so liberally endowed that it can be conducted at a permanent loss if need be.

There are indications that Doctor Parkhurst has an impression of the science of journalism as mistaken as that which was at the basis of the experiment of Mr. Sheldon. He appears to assume that the successful newspaper of to-day must distort the facts, disregard the truth and to depraved public tastes and espouse wrong popular doctrines in order to hold its patronage.

No impression was ever more mistaken. The first essential of the successful newspaper is that it tell the truth. The paper which violates this first great duty of newspapers cannot have long prosperity. Let a reputation for untruthfulness once come to a newspaper and loss of patronage will follow not far behind.

An endowed newspaper, "conducted if need be at a permanent loss," would be a novelty, but it is hard to see how it could serve a more valuable purpose than to furnish employment to those who produce it. A newspaper which the people want need not be conducted at a loss and need have no endowment except the initial capital required to put it under way. A newspaper which the people do not want they will not have, no matter how heavily endowed.

A paper which sets itself the quixotic and ambitious task of "leading public opinion" will find itself teaching in a solitude if the public decides to adopt an opinion different from that which the leaders propose to force upon the public. The public will not follow a leader against its will and judgment. Another mistaken impression which Doctor Parkhurst seems to have when

he pleads for higher-priced papers is that newspapers deteriorated in quality when they fell in price. The exact opposite is true. The quality of the newspaper was improved while its price was lowered.

Americans heard Mr. Sheldon patiently to the end of his experiment and reached the conclusion that he had blazed a new and useful path in journalism. Newspaper makers will observe Doctor Parkhurst's paper in the same receptive way, for if journalism have one pronounced trait it is a willingness to learn and to accept advice and suggestions.

Doctor Parkhurst's experiment may bring him to a kinder estimate of the newspaper profession. That will be much gained.

RECURRENCE IN NEWS.

Diligent and observant newspaper readers have frequently called attention to the recurrent character of news happenings. The Alford bank defalcation, they say, was followed in a very short time by the Brown defalcation. More recently still they point to the deaths of Playwright Charles Hoyt and Composer Sir Arthur Sullivan. Suicides in strange ways are followed by other suicides in the same way, drownings follow drownings, and shipwrecks tread close on the heels of shipwrecks, they contend. Nor are newspaper readers alone in such contentions. Proverbs of ancient origin and accepted repute argue to the same end. "Misfortunes never come singly," says one. "I never rains but it pours," remarks another.

Where human beings figure in news happenings suggestion doubtless exercises a powerful influence in bringing about recurrence. Man is an imitative animal. Whatever improvement his physical, mental or moral make-up has undergone through the ages, his imitative faculties and tendencies have come down unchanged from his Darwinian progenitors. If one man sees another shoot the chutes or ride head down on a centrifugal railway he must do the same or impair his self-respect.

Suggestion is admitted by criminologists to be a decided influence in crime. When the Botkin poisoning by mail was followed by other similar crimes suggestion could be plainly traced. Some such relation may also have existed between the two recent defalcations. Brown's flight and the discovery which followed may have been due directly to the flight of Alford and the discovery of his crookedness.

The philosophical story of the Cholera embodies a human trait and may account for recurrences. It runs: A man met the Cholera in the suburbs of a great city.

"I shall enter that city and kill 200 persons to-day," said the Cholera. "Thousands died that day in the city. Meeting the Cholera coming out of the city that night, the man exclaimed, 'You said you were going to kill only 200. You have killed thousands.'"

"Nay," quoth the Cholera, "I killed only 200. Fear killed the others." Fear, arising from hearing of previous recent catastrophes, may disturb human nerve and realize the worst possibilities of a train of circumstances which, with undisturbed nerves, would have resulted in no harm. A steersman or a train dispatcher may at a critical moment become heavy with a realization of his responsibilities and a train wreck or a shipwreck result. A little fire that a breath could have extinguished may, coupled with fear and excitement, make a holocaust. So with panics, runaways, drownings, deaths in storms, and a thousand other accidents.

Some philosopher may establish scientifically the recurrence of untoward happenings and account for them logically. Such a study would be interesting and point a healthy moral of courage and equanimity.

Announcement that the official plurality of Governor-elect Dockery is over 22,000 has started the Globe-Democrat on another hunt for the dream people it counted on its side during the campaign, who failed to put in an appearance at the polls.

Six men have now been sent to jail for criticizing Kaiser Wilhelm's "no quarter" speech. Some millions of American citizens would be laughing in their sleeves if similar results had followed criticism of Roosevelt's "cowards all" speech.

An inclination on the part of politicians to put off the party conventions to a late date should be taken as a declaration of war against the people who want a business administration in charge of St. Louis's affairs during the next four years.

St. Louisans should contribute to the World's Fair fund according to their means and according to the benefits they will receive from the Fair, and every St. Louisan's name should be on the subscription list.

Cat riffs should be included under the law prohibiting the discharge of firearms in the city. The accident in which a St. Louis girl lost her eye is one of many which urge this course.

Pictures of the express messenger who was injured in the train hold-up in Arkansas indicate that the proper accomplishment of a rubber neck is a rubber face.

From the surprise pictured on the faces of the Ziegenhein gang after the recent election the people evidently kicked a goal from the field on that occasion.

As it takes the Moramee Springs water supply scheme so long a time to die it ought to be very, very dead when finally the lid of the coffin is closed on it.

"Reduce the deficit" has a better, homelier ring than "Reduce the water rates." Honest men pay their debts before they give presents.

It does look as if Thanksgiving Week was a mighty inauspicious time for Uncle Sam to get into an international squabble with Turkey.

France may be best pictured just now as falling upon old Oom Paul Kruger's neck and shaking her fists at England over his shoulders.

Terry McGovern's defeat in a "mix-up" with his little wife shows that fighting, like filtration, is a mere question of "sand."

PIONEER ILLINOIS COUPLE CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING.



MR. AND MRS. PETER LAWRENCE MENKE Of Mattoon, Ill., whose golden wedding was celebrated yesterday.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Mattoon, Ill., Nov. 25.—On Sunday, November 25, Peter Lawrence Menke and Margaret Buchanan Mitchell were married at the home of the bride in Eaton, Ill., and the golden anniversary of the wedding was celebrated in this city this afternoon with a dinner at the city of the oldest son, Francis M. Menke, for two years manager of the Mattoon ball team in the Illinois-Indiana League.

Mr. and Mrs. Menke have eight living children and fourteen grandchildren. All are present for the anniversary. The States represented at the gathering besides Illinois are Missouri, Kansas and Colorado.

STATE TO PRAY TO REFILL MANY DESERTED CHURCHES.

Chicago Baptist Clergyman Declares Church People Now Prefer to Fill the Boulevards and Theaters to Houses of Worship.

Chicago, Nov. 25.—"The boulevards, the clubs and the theaters are more attractive to church people than their own churches," said the Reverend Doctor Kittredge Wheeler, pastor of the Fourth Baptist Church of this city to-day. Doctor Wheeler's fellow clergyman agree with him. So general is the opinion among the preachers of the Baptist Church in many parts of the city that the spiritual benefit of a revival in all of the Baptist churches of Illinois, and steps will be taken to interest members of the church in other States.

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