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DEATH RATE IN VARIOUS CITIES.

The death rate in other localities has interest for people in general and in particular for any community whose sanitary conditions may have been called in question. It is also instructive for the hygienist.

The following mortality statistics for 1906 of the principal British and other European cities, which have just been published by the sanitary authorities of Antwerp, indicating the number of deaths per 1,000 of population, will be read with profit:

Antwerp, 13.7; Amsterdam, 13.7; Rotterdam, 14.1; Edinburgh, 14.2; Liege, 14.3; Brussels, 14.6; Berlin, 15.1; The Hague, 15.3; Dresden, 15.4; Hamburg, 15.5; London, 15.7; Prague, 16.6; Birmingham, 16.8; Glasgow, 17.7; Vienna, 17.8; Paris, 17.9; Munich, 18.1; Budapest, 18.2; Ghent, 18.6; Rome, 18.9; Manchester, 19.1; Cologne, 19.6; Liverpool, 20.6; Moscow, 20.8; Odessa, 20.8; Belfast, 20.8; Dublin, 23.3; Havre, 24.4; St. Petersburg, 25.4; Trieste, 25.8; Madrid, 29.5.

It is noteworthy that Burlington's death rate is almost exactly the same as that of New York, this city's rate for 1906 having been 18.5, while that of the metropolis was 18.32.

COUNTRY BANKS IN GOOD SHAPE.

One of the reassuring considerations for the people of Vermont is that while banking institutions in New York and other cities were experiencing trouble, the banks of our State were showing the excellent effects of sound methods of banking and conservative management. So far as we know Vermont contains no wildcat banking institution and there is therefore no reason why any bank in this State should borrow trouble. Burlington is particularly fortunate in the possession of so many strong banks, in which is reposed the utmost confidence, and deservedly so.

It is also gratifying to note a rapid return of normal currency conditions among country banks all over the middle West forecasted as the result of an informal canvass covering a wide area made by the Hamilton National bank of Chicago. Returns from more than 350 letters sent out by officials of the bank to personal acquaintances showed that most of the outside banks are able to take care of themselves and will not need to draw their reserve cash out of Chicago. Fear that this would be done if present currency restrictions were removed has been a leading factor in the care with which local banks hoarded their currency, and men well informed as to the financial situation have steadily affirmed that as soon as this factor is gone the situation will become normal.

THE TARIFF SHOULD BE REVISED AT ONCE.

The action of the representatives of the American Newspaper Publishers' association in asking President Roosevelt to recommend to Congress the abolition of the tariff on press paper, wood pulp and wood that goes into the manufacture of paper and the promise of the President to comply with their request, sound the death knell of protection for the products of trusts in the United States. No newspaper which has asked for a reduction of the customs duties on the products in which it is directly interested can consistently support protection for other commodities manufactured by trusts, and when the list of American products is canvassed we may be surprised to see how far-reaching was the step taken by these representatives of the newspaper interests when they burned their tariff bridges behind them.

While no one can tell just where the revision of the tariff thus asked for will end, or whether it will mean the removal of all the customs duties on materials entering into the manufacture of paper and other commodities whose manufacture and sale are monopolized by trusts or controlled by "gentlemen's agreements," the Republican party so largely represented by the newspapers of the country, can now pursue but one policy consistently, and that is to revise the Dingley tariff schedules at the earliest opportunity.

The only argument for procrastination in connection with tariff revision by republicans, has been swept away by the financial events of the past few weeks. The cry of the conservatives has been that we should "stand pat." The present appeal of the business interests of the whole country is to restore public confidence. Manifestly general confidence can not be fully restored until business interests know on what basis they are to operate, and the sooner the uncertainty in that direction is removed the more speedy will be the complete restoration of confidence.

The only legitimate argument against revision of the tariff by the republicans has been that such a course might tend to unsettle prosperity. One of the leading candidates for the republican nomination for president of the United States has taken a public stand in favor of incorporating in the republican national platform to be formulated the coming summer a promise to revise the tariff as soon as possible after the next national edection.

It is the uncertainty growing out of the unsettling of prices by tariff revision that tends to stay the wheels of industry and commerce, and a present promise to make another promise at some time in the future to revise the tariff later on, starts the uncertainty now and holds its shadow over the country for an indefinite period. The unsettling of industry and trade which we were guarding against, has already come from causes, concerning the sources of which the people are not agreed, and the prospect of revision of the tariff twenty-four months or so hence will inevitably tend to prolong the uncertainty regarding future standards of value.

Under these circumstances it would seem to be the part of wisdom for Congress to promptly take up the matter of tariff revision at the coming session, and push the work to completion.

The time has evidently come when the protectionism of republicanism must be that advocated by Blaine and later on by that chief apostle of protection to American industries, the lamented McKinley. It is idle now to inquire whether the party erred in not pushing into operation the policy enunciated by President McKinley in his fateful speech at the Buffalo exposition, September 5, 1901. It may be profitable, however to use his utterance as a guide for the future. In the course of that noteworthy speech Mr. McKinley spoke prophetically as follows:

"We have a vast and intricate business built up through years of toil and trouble, in which every part of the country has its stake, which will not permit of either neglect or undue selfishness. No narrow, sordid policy will subserve it. The greatest skill and wisdom on the part of manufacturers and producers will be required to hold and increase it. Our capacity to produce has developed so enormously and our products have so multiplied that the problem of more markets requires our urgent and immediate attention. * * * By sensible trade arrangements, which will not interrupt our home production, we shall extend the outlets for our increasing surplus. A system which provides a mutual exchange of commodities is manifestly essential to the continued and healthful growth of our export trade. * * * The period of exclusiveness is past. The expansion of our trade and commerce is the pressing problem. Commercial wars are unprofitable. * * * If perchance some of our tariffs are no longer needed for revenue or to encourage and protect our industries at home, why should they not be employed to extend and promote our markets abroad?"

In the light of the developments of the past few months, and especially the past few weeks, it is evident that the time has come to carry into effect the policies of those champions of protection and reciprocity, Blaine and McKinley, to use protective schedules to increase our industry and commerce.

Combinations which have secured a monopoly of production and sale of certain commodities in this country no longer need protection, for they are already able to defy the world in general and the American consumer in particular. The sooner the Republican party deprives the trusts of the armor of protection the more speedy will be the puncturing of their vulnerable points, the more rapid the return of general confidence and the more certain the continued favor of the party with the public.

With tariff revision accomplished during the coming session of Congress the republicans will leave the democrats no issue of worth or force during the next national campaign, and they can appeal to the suffrage firm in the knowledge that they have again shown their party to be the champion of the cause and interests of the people.

NEEDN'T ASK PA.

He had been going to see her for a long time, but never stated the object of his visits, and she was desirous of the future. He met her one night at the house of a mutual friend, and seemed to be quite sad. After several well developed sighs he said: "Life is full, very full, of bitterness isn't it?" "Oh,I don't know she responded, cheerily; "I haven't much cause to complain." "Possibly not now, Mary; but the bitter cup has been placed to your lips." "Yes, Henry, my parents are dead." "And is there no bitterness in that, Mary? Is it not very,very sad to be an orphan?" "Of course it is Henry, but you see—and she blushed vividly—"it relieves you of the embarrassment of asking father." Henry's heart was touched.—Philadelphia Inquirer

THE NEW CONGRESS

Unusual Number of Changes in The Senate.

The Newcomers, and Those Who Have Died, or Failed of Re-election—Old Heads Rule Committees—Composition of the House.

One-sixth of the United States Senate will be new when Congress meets next month. Including the two new senators who will come from Oklahoma after the Legislature of the new State meets in January, there will be 17 new faces, says the Washington correspondent of the New York Post. This is more new blood than is generally infused into the Senate at one time. Strictly speaking, all the faces of the new comers will not be new as William Alden Smith, who came in from Michigan as the successor of Russell A. Alger, and Charles C. Curtis of Kansas, who succeeded Alfred W. Benson, took their seats toward the close of the last session of Congress.

The senators whose faces will be missing are: Russell A. Alger of Michigan, removed by death; J. Frank Allee of Delaware, defeated for re-election; Joseph C. S. Blackburn of Kentucky, failed of reselection; Alfred W. Benson of Kansas, failed of re-election; Edward W. Carmack of Tennessee, defeated for re-election; William A. Clark of Montana, failed of re-election; John F. Dryden of New Jersey, failed of re-election; Fred T. Dubois of Idaho, failed of re-election; John M. Gearin of Oregon, failed of reselection; Joseph M. Millard of Nebraska, failed of re-election; John T. Morgan of Alabama, removed by death; Thomas M. Patterson of Colorado, failed of re-election; Edmund W. Pettus of Alabama, removed by death; John C. Spooner of Wisconsin, resigned.

The new comers are William Alden Smith of Michigan, H. A. Richardson of Delaware, Jefferson C. Davis of Arkansas, Thomas H. Paynter of Kentucky, Robert W. Taylor of Tennessee, Joseph M. Dixon of Montana, Charles C. Curtis of Kansas, Frank Briggs of New Jersey, William E. Borah of Idaho, Jonathan Bourne of Oregon, Norris Brown of Nebraska, John H. Bankhead of Alabama, Joseph F. Johnston of Alabama, Simon Guggenheim of Colorado, Isaac Stephenson of Wisconsin.

Of the 15 men, who, for one reason or another, were retired, eight were democrats and seven republicans. Of the 15 new-comers, 11 are republicans and four democrats. This gain in the republican strength in the Senate is significant, for it means that if, perchance, the democrats should elect the next president, the party would not be able to secure any legislation on demand, because, under no circumstances, will it be possible for the Democratic party to get possession of the Senate within the next four years.

OLD HEADS WILL CONTINUE TO RULE.

The old heads in the Senate will continue to run the body. Men like Spooner, Blackburn, Carmack, Morgan, Pettus and Patterson will be missed, but Aldrich, Crane, Hale, Frye, Allison and Lodge are as active, if not as vigorous, as ever. They will continue to be the "bosses of the Senate." Unless history fails to repeat itself the new-comers among the republicans within a few months will be taking their advice.

Shake ups of one kind and another have left the minority in the body without a leader. One will have to be chosen at the opening of the coming session. There has really been but little democratic leadership in the body since Senator Gorman died. Senator Blackburn was made chairman of the minority caucus, and was recognized as the floor leader for the minority, but he never led. There was a time when Senator Bailey would have been hailed as the leader of his party in the body, but his troubles over in Texas Standard oil have cast such a shadow over his political career that he is no longer considered in connection with the leadership.

Senator Augustus O. Bacon of Georgia is probably the best fitted for the leadership, but he and Tillman have not been able to get along, and some of the other minority members do not like him. Senator Culberson of Texas is also qualified for leadership. Senator Daniels of Virginia is another possibility. He is a strong debater, but has never displayed a great deal of ability as a leader. On the whole it looks as if the democrats in the Senate might be weaker during the coming Congress than for many years.

An active campaign is being waged to obtain the leadership for Senator Culberson. Senator Simmons of North Carolina is managing it. Mr. Culberson has not openly sanctioned the work that is going forward in his behalf, but he is quite receptive. Senators Taliaferro and Mallory of Florida, Overman of North Carolina Latimer of South Carolina, McLaurin of Mississippi, McEnery of Louisiana, McCreary of Kentucky, Martin of Virginia and Whyte of Maryland are said to be pledged to the cause of Mr. Culberson.

Unless the Rhode Island Legislature should elect a successor to Mr. Wetmore between now and December, which is most unlikely, the Senate will convene with 60 republicans, one vacancy, and 29 democrats.

COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE

The House will have 222 members of the majority party, and 164 democrats. Inasmuch as Oklahoma assumes full powers of statehood upon the issuance of the President's proclamation, there will be four democratic and one republican member of the Congress to take the oath of office the moment they are legally eligible. All of them will be here at the opening of the next House.

This will make the total membership of the House 391, of which 222 will be republicans and 168 democrats, showing a republican majority of 55. Assuming that Rhode Island will send a republican to succeed Wetmore, there will be 61 republicans and 31 democrats in the Senate. The Oklahoma Legislature will not meet until January next. Messrs Gore and Owen have been nominated by primary, and the democratic governor will appoint them immediately upon assumption of his gubernatorial duties following the executive proclamation until the Legislature can meet and elect. Under appointment, therefore, they will present themselves at the bar of the Senate when that body convenes, and their legislative credentials will follow as soon as the State Legislature acts.

SENATE COMMITTEES.

Seven of the Senate committee chairmanships are vacant.These committees and their former chairmen are: Engrossed bills; Berry of Arkansas; enrolled bills, Dryden of New Jersey; interoceanic canals, Millard of Nebraska; public health and quarantine, Morgan of Alabama; railroads, Allee of Delaware; rules, Spooner of Wisconsin; disposition of useless papers in the executive departments, Pettus of Alabama. Two of these vacancies were caused by death and one by resignation from the Senate. The vacancies on the various committees of the Senate show that the committee on committees will have quite a task before it. Committee assignments in the Senate are filled by the senators themselves, whereas those in the House are filled by the dictum of the speaker.

In the Senate the vacancies on the important committees are as follows: Appropriations, one of each party; commerce, one each; District of Columbia, one republican and three democrats; finance, one each; foreign relations, one republican and two democratic; interoceanic canals, two each; judiciary, one republican and three democratic; library, two republican and democratic; military affairs, one democratic; Pacific islands, and Porto Rico, one republican and two democratic; Philippines, two democratic; public buildings and grounds, three republican; audit and control of contingent expenses of the Senate, one each; Canadian relations, one each; census, one democratic; civil service and retrenchment, one democratic; claims, one each; coast and insular survey, one republican and two democratic; coast defence, one republican; fisheries, one democratic; immigration, one each; Indian affairs, four democratic; interstate commerce, one democratic; irrigation, two democratic; Pacific railroads, one each; pensions, one republican and three democratic; privileges and elections, two democratic; territories, one democratic.

SILVER SERVICE AND A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

(From the Northfield News.)

The purchase of the silver service for the battleship Vermont by the State is still a subject of discussion. The appropriation for the service was $5,000, but the purchase was made for a considerably less sum. Such an unexpected result would naturally bring a word of commendation to Governor Bell, who had the matter in charge. In some quarters his economy has been commented upon favorably, while others think that the State, having appropriated that amount, expected that it would be invested in buying the best possible service for the money. The latter criticism is weak from the fact, if the News is not mistaken, that the act passed by the Legislature appropriated a sum not to exceed $5,000 for the purchase of a suitable service and left the matter in the hands of the governor. It was the latter's judgment that a service which he could purchase for considerably less than the limit of the appropriation was good enough in every way. That being the case he performed his duty and is deserving of commendation rather than criticism. No one has offered the suggestion that the service was not ample and satisfactory. Anyhow let us make a note that there was once upon a time an appropriation from the state treasury which was not entirely expended. The happening is rare enough to call for comment.

TO THE POLE BY BEAR-POWER.

(From Collier's.)

Captain Roald Amundsen, the explorer of the Northwest passage, is the latest aspirant for the honor of discovering the North Pole. Captain Amundsen has a new scheme. He is not going to take any chances with airships, motor sleds, or any other artificial achievements of modern ingenuity. His motto is: "Back to nature." He proposes to use things that are at home in Arctic conditions. His motive power will be polar bears. The normal polar bear as he is found at large would have some disadvantages in the role of a domestic animal. His temper is not amiable, and it would be hard to keep him in a proper state of discipline, even with a club. The only effective argument with him is with a gun, preferably at long range. But Captain Amundsen proposes to employ bears that have never heard the call of the wild. He is having them trained as cubs, so that by the time they grow up they ought to be as docile as horses. When he takes them north a trip to the pole will be a mere pleasure jaunt for them. The colder and keener the weather, the better they will like it. If they come to a break in the ice such as one that stopped Peary, they will enjoy swimming across. With seal flesh for their food they can live on the country. According to Captain Amundsen a bear is ten times as strong as a horse and can haul as much as a hundred dogs. With six bears, therefore, he will have sixty horse-power, or six hundred dog-power. Moreover, when trained, polar bears are "tractable, reliable, and affectionate." Even if they should eat their master in a moment of forgetfulness, no doubt they would regret it afterward.

The Norwegian explorer is prepared to give five or six years to his experiment. He proposes to use Nansen's ship, the Fram, if he can get it, or one like it. He expects to take the Bering strait route and watch his chance as his vessel drifts across the polar basin to make his bear dash for the pole. If Commander Peary, Mr. Cook, and the other explorers who are headed that way do not crowd in ahead of him he may secure the unparalleled honor of carrying off both of the two great prizes of Arctic exploration. One of them, the Northwest passage, is already his, and if he can add the pole to that he will have a distinction that will be altogether unique.

SOME LUCKY FRIDAYS.

The popular superstition which marks Friday as a day of ill omen should receive no attention in America, for in the history of the continent Friday has always been a happy and eventful day.

It was on Friday that Columbus sailed on his voyage of discovery.

Friday, ten weeks afterward, he discovered America.

Friday, Henry VII of England gave John Cabot his commission, which led to the discovery of North America.

Friday, St. Augustine, the oldest town in the eastern part of the United States, was founded.

Friday, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth; and on Friday they signed the first compact insuring self government in the history of the nation.

Friday was the birthday of George Washington.

Friday, Bunker Hill was seized and fortified.

Friday, the British General Burgoyne surrendered to General Gates at Saratoga.

Friday, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Friday, the motion was made in the Continental Congress that the colonies were and of right ought to be free and independent.

TO CLEAN SILVER TARNISED BY EGG.

Rub a little salt upon the spoon. The egg has acted upon it to produce sulphuret of silver. The sodium of the salt should make it disappear.—The Delineator.

HOW TO REMOVE OLD PAINT

One of the best ways to remove paint from old chairs or other furniture is to saturate the wood with ammonia, then to take an old knife and scrape the paint It will come off in a mass, leaving the wood perfectly clean.—The Delineator.

NEW PICTURES OF MARS.

First Photographs of Double Canals Made by Prof. Todd.

The Amherst Astronomer Back from South America, Where He Has Been Taking Pictures of Our Neighbor Planet.

(From the New York Sun.)

A young man with a straw hat, an ice cream suit of clothes and a pointed blond beard yesterday afternoon trotted up and down the long pier at the foot of West Twenty-seventh street—where the Colon of the Panama Railroad Steamship line had docked earlier in the day after a trip up from the canal zone—on the lookout to see that none of his telescopes, his Gaertner celestial cameras and his 6,000 or 7,000 brand new photographs of the canals of Mars were not manhandled by unscientific truckmen. When you've been up in the air, 15,000 feet up at that, all summer and have got the first photographs of the parallel or double canals of Mars for the first time in history, you don't want them handled undecidedly.

He was Prof. David Todd of Amherst, who sailed with his wife, Mabel Loomis Todd, for the Andes on May 11, at the head of the Lowell astronomical expedition. He had things to tell about Mars that no one has told before, but he was too busy then saving negatives and things to go into detail.

"But if you'll go and see Mrs. Todd she'll tell you about it," he said. "As soon as we came to earth to-day she started for a dinner party at 92 Park avenue. Catch her between courses and you'll get your interview. We're going right away from here. Here, my man, handle that thing as if you owned it."

"And so we started south, "began Mrs. Todd up in Park avenue, "on May 11 to observe Mars at opposition. This year Mars was only 35,500,000 miles from the earth, whereas the ordinary distance is about 60,000,000 miles. When the planet is at opposition two years hence it will be 36,000,000 miles away from us and then it will recede and recede after that and there will be no favorable opposition for 15 years. Also the atmospheric conditions were particularly favorable this year for observation and altogether we could not have asked for better luck throughout the trip.

"I suppose the thing most interesting about the expedition is that for the first time the double or parallel canals have 'come up' on a photographic plate—on every plate made, in fact. The double canals have been seen by Prof. Lowell and others before this but did not appear on photographic negatives. We happened to be where the air was steadier and that is why our Gaertner camera got both canals. When others declared before this that they saw canals running in parallel lines but failed to secure them on negatives after repeated attempts there were many doubting Thomases who maintained that observers were 'seeing double'—that the whole thing was an optical illusion. Now the two lines of canals are a certainty.

"We stopped to look at the canal—the Panama one—on our way down and saw the splendid system of work that Col. Goethals of the army, who is in charge, has established there. Then we shipped our Amherst College telescope, with an object glass 18 inches in diameter, and other instruments that included a very fine celestial camera made especially for the telescope by Gaertner of Chicago.

"Our first stop was at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and then, after a week at Lima, we all went away up in the pampa of Iquique in northern Chile and set up our telescope in a part of the desert of Tarapaca. The Amherst telescope was the largest ever used in the southern hemisphere, by the way. Mr. Todd had been invited to occupy as a station one of the great centres of the nitrate industry and the telescope was mounted at the Oficina Alianza.

"In photographing that Mr. Todd made during the next six weeks there he was delighted first of all to secure always the double canals. The negative showed, too, the conspicuous polar caps of snow on the planet, white and dazzling, and the large dark areas and the fine markings of the famous canals.

"We dismounted the telescope on July 21 because Mars was getting further away by that time, and we went back to Callao and Lima. From there we made several trips over the Oroya railway, the highest in the world. We went up to Cerro de Pasco, 14,000 to 15,000 feet above the sea, and here and at even higher places—one point was 15,600 feet high—Mr. Todd made tests to learn how favorable were atmospheric conditions at so great a height for astronomical observation.

"He first had a large metal tank built in the railway shops and when it had been set in place it was filled with compressed air to bring the air pressure up to that of the sea level pressure. Mr. Todd then continued his observations in the tank under sea level atmospheric conditions and found that he obtained results as good as he would out in the open. His purpose in making the test, of course, was to find out whether astronomers who are subject to 'mountain sickness' and the headache and nausea that go with it at great altitudes, could avoid the 'mountain sickness' by working in the tank. He found his idea worked out admirably."

Mrs. Todd said that the members of the expedition also made observations of the annular eclipse of the sun on July 10, with excellent weather conditions on their side. They will proceed to Amherst perhaps to-day, where Prof. Todd immediately begin to elaborate his notes and print his great wads of plates for the benefit of his students and astronomical workers in general.

THE OUTPUT OF HUMOR.

Most Jokes, It is Said Spring from a Few Roots.

Casting aside all question as to the physiognomy of humorists, for tradition has long established that jokemakers have a sad and sorry countenance, interest in the Bookman's article on the funny man in literature must be confined to the confessions of the humorists themselves as to their output, says the Chicago Tribune. One writer modestly admits that he has perpetrated 12,000 merry quips. Another claims that he has put forth no less than 75,000 jokes, good, bad and indifferent, and a third is of opinion that a moderate estimate for his output would be a full 100,000.

A humorist, not troubled with insomnia, contends that a fair day's work for him would be 100 jokes, while a less fertile jester confesses to no more than 50. As to the compensation for these humorous coruscations there is a wide difference of view. While one writer boasts that he has received $10 for a single sparkle, others believe that $2 could be considered good pay, and for a joke of ordinary dimensions and average intelligence 25 cents would be gratefully received.

All of which is extremely diverting if not luminously instructive. A few months ago a philosopher, writing of the expansion of the jest, made the blunt statement that all the so-called jokes spring from not more than a dozen roots; that, in other words, there are not more than 12 original jokes, and from these 12 have sprung the multitudinous pleasantries which have contributed so genially to the gaiety of nations. This point seems to have been neglected by the contributors to the Bookman. Evidently the merry fellow who has dashed off 100,000 epigrams, witticisms and funny stories would be reluctant to admit that 99,988 of them are variants, and that he has merely repeated the pleasantries that were current in the Rameside period or were the means of relieving the tedium in the ark during the prevailing deluge.

Another point to be considered is the exact status of a joke. Is a humorist justified in pronouncing an emanation from his pen or typewriter a joke because he chooses so to regard it? If he happens to be his own editor and publisher can he arrogate this to himself? If a joke is "something said or done for the sake of exciting laughter," then a joke requires no special qualifications, but if a joke is a "witty remark or act," who is wholly privileged to say that he has written 100 jokes in a single day?

Possibly we do not take our professional jokers seriously enough. We do not remember that the jest that may or may not delight and enthrall us is the earnest production of a business man with whom joking is an arduous and solemn profession. The man who admits that he has acquired a house and lot on an output of 25,000 jokes has claims of recognition as an earnest and industrious citizen. One is not surprised when he treats his occupation as one of patient and laudable endeavor and speaks of it with pride and sentimental feeling. It is well to forget the theory of the 12 original jokes, and give him due credit for the ingenious mind which enables him such small beginnings, to develop so abundant a garden from

LIEUT.-GOV. PROUTY AND THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

The Randolph Herald and News practically sums up the whole case with reference to the Jamestown exposition and the Vermont commissioner in the following paragraph:

Is Lieut.-Gov. Prouty correct in his surmise that much of the criticism of the Vermont Jamestown commission has a political animus back of it? This might apply to some of the wicked newspapers, who of course are always ready to put a spike in the political coffin of a candidate they do not favor, but it would not readily apply to non-political visitors who return from the exposition and report their dissatisfaction with our State's showing. Probably few of this class know that anybody's political future is involved to any degree, and simply state their honest conclusions. Lieut.-Gov. Prouty, as the actual head of the commission, issued a defense of its course last week that should be read by all disposed to blame somebody for the Jamestown fiasco. It covers the case clearly, and prove the utter folly of trying to make a creditable showing with only $10,000 and no co-operation from home. The commission has served without pay, and has done its best, in the face of most discouraging conditions. The solemn truth is that Vermont ought not to have been lured into this trap to begin with, and the knocking should go to the Legislature which was gulled, rather than the unpaid servants who have tried to do the impossible.

A HUGE SACCHARINE JOKE.

(From the Londonderry Sifter.)

We are quite used to the habit the city dailies have of poking fun at items, real or imaginary, that appear in country papers; but occasionally they seriously undertake to educate the country people in improved methods of farming. Judging only from the articles published, the writers are easily detected as belonging to the class that usually inquire "Which cow gives the buttermilk?" and "On which trees do the pumpkins grow?"

The latest is that in a recent issue of a prominent Boston daily. The article is headed, "All Sugaring Off by Big Syndicate," and this syndicate expects to make all the sugar and syrup produced in Vermont. The article contains the following:

"The promoters of the new combination aim to remedy the instability of the market and stop dilution. Evaporating stations are to be placed all over Vermont to the number of probably 20 or 25. At these evaporating stations, the farmer will deliver all the sap he can bring to market. In this way it is hoped the farmer may be induced to a greater extent than ever before. A far greater immediate advantage to the farmer is that he will not find it necessary to sugar his sap. The stations are to be so numerous that any farmer in the State can drive to them with his sap before it spoils, and a newer, bigger and better industry will be formed."

Now those 20 or 25 evaporating stations placed all over the State would average less than two to each county, and they talk about the farmer's hauling his sap to those stations to save him the labor of sugaring his sap. Yes, we can almost see the farmers hauling their sap ten or fifteen miles at that time of the year over the mud laden roads.

For showing the writer's ignorance of maple sugar making, the article is a huge success.

DADDY'S POCKETS.

Plums from the wonderful sugar plum tree,
Apples and candies and things:
Deddy brings home in his pockets for me,
Ships that can sail on a make-believe sea,
Little tin soldiers as brave as can be
And toys that are worked upon strings.
And I run to explore them at night, for I know
Most wonderful things may be hidden below.

Sometimes it's choc'late and peppermint, too,
Or maybe a dolly that speaks;
But always find something shiny and new,
A jack-in-a-box that jumps out with a "boo,"
A little tin horn, painted red, white and blue,
Or a ball that is rubber and squeaks.
So I delve in his pockets at night just to see
What wonderful thing has been put there for me.

The fairies have many strange places they say,
To hide things for good little boys;
Where they put all their candies and sweetmeats away,
Where they hide wonderous things at the close of the day,
Where the gingerbread horses and sugar plums stay,
And also the brightest of toys.
And these wonderful places, so filled with delight,
Are just daddy's pockets, I search every night.—Detroit Free Press.

WANT SERVICE CONTINUED.

People on North Avenue and Elsewhere Ask for Trolley Winter Cars.

Routine matters of a miscellaneous nature were considered at the special meeting of the board of aldermen Tuesday evening. All of the members were present except Alderman Clarke.

The amended wiring ordinance was read the third time and passed under suspension of rules. The following committees were appointed: Aldermen Russell, Courtney and Bombard, to confer with the city attorney on the plumbing ordinance; Aldermen Clarke, Pease and Murphy, to confer with the city attorney on the milk ordinance.

E. F. BROWNELL'S CLAIMS.

Regarding E. F. Brownell's claims against the city, J. H. Macomber, city attorney, reported as follows:

"To the Honorable Board of Aldermen.

Last April E. F. Brownell brought suit against the city for services as chief of police from August 1 to August 19, 1902, and for services as a license commissioner for December, 1905, and January, February and March, 1906. The total amount which he claims is $275 and he is entitled to interest on whatever sum is found due him. A small amount of costs have also been made.

"Mr. Brownell has agreed to settle this claim for $175. I would ask your careful consideration of the proposition and would recommend that it be accepted and a warrant be drawn for the sum above named in favor of Mr. Brownell.

Burlington, Nov. 6, 1907."

The report was accepted and placed on file and a resolution was adopted authorizing settlement.

A resolution to impose a license fee of $100 for the season of 1907 and 1908 on The Strong Theatre, offered by Alderman Pine, was on motion of Alderman Murphy laid on the table.

TRACTION COMPANY AGAIN.

Petitions were received from large numbers of residents on North avenue and vicinity, and from the employes of the Burlington Rendering company asking that the 20-minute car service on North avenue continue in force and that all North avenue cars make the trip through to Ethan Allen Park instead of to the Institute road. The petitions state that the discontinuance of through service on North avenue during the winter months is a great inconvenience to the petitioners.

A committee consisting of Aldermen Courtney, Pease and Murphy was appointed to confer with the Traction company in an effort to have the petitions granted.

Quite general complaint was reported by different members of the board of alleged over-crowding of cars. Mayor Bigelow said one means of relief from at least the overcrowding of the cars might come through an appeal to the State railroad commissioners. He thought the city attorney ought to be consulted and that if in that official's opinion the action were deemed warrantable, a petition might be brought asking the railroad commissioners to grant a hearing. It was later suggested that the company be appealed to for relief from overcrowded cars on the ground of justice to its patrons and that was the way the matter was left.

HACKMEN CRITICIZED.

The cars of local hackmen might have burned while the members of the board were commenting with fire and freedom on the manner in which the provisions of the new hack ordinance were disregarded. No definite action was taken on the matter. Various misdemeanors of the hackmen were reported and it was alleged that one man was driving a hack without any license. Mayor Bigelow thought the hackmen could be best disciplined by the revocation of the licenses of the miscreants, rather than by action in city court.

LONG STANDING CASE DISCONTINUED.

Steps were taken for the discontinuance of the long standing case of Russell W. Taft et al, executors, vs. city of Burlington. This is an action brought by the late Judge Taft in 1894 and carried on by his executors to recover money paid to the city of Burlington for sewer and gutter assessment, the property in question being that of the Taft homestead on South Union street. It was explained last evening that the money in question was paid with the stipulation that it would be returned should the assessment be found invalid. The recommendation of the city attorney that the case be discontinued without costs to either party was accepted and a resolution authorizing such action was adopted.

The claim of Henry Mayo for damages for the death of his horse on the lower road recently was referred to the city attorney.

GOVERNOR HUGHES OF NEW YORK

On Labor Day I made a trip to Albany to see Governor Hughes. The weather was of the "raining cats and dogs" variety, but I soon found my way to the Capitol, and rapped at an inner door with a moist hand. Here Secretary Fuller, up to his eyes in work in the governor's private office, was imbibing large shocks of correspondence.

Now it happened that at the meeting of the Rochester chamber of commerce banquet, some months ago, I made a chance remark which was taken up by Senator Armstrong, the toast-master of the occasion, who insisted that "Joe Chapple said they were going to bunch their hits" that night." I had forgotten this incident, though I remembered that his introduction of Governor Hughes was especially happy, and there was an outpouring of enthusiastic applause when it was stated that we had with us that night "the stuff of which presidents are made."

Imagine my surprise when Governor Hughes, in greeting me, referred to this passing remark regarding "bunching the hits." It furnishes a glimpse of the governor's ability to individualize, and suggested that he certainly must have a royal memory. He has light brown hair and a beard of the same hue, and is not a tall man, but a powerful one, yet in his dark eyes there is a softness, a tenderness, which fairly glistened as he spoke of the "prize baby" at home. Self-reliant, the personification of conscientiousness, no wonder that Charles Evans Hughes represents a distinctively new type that will abide. Without the usual apprenticeship as a political henchman, and without seeking it, he has reached the office he holds, and has unconsciously stepped into the swing of presidential possibilities in a way unknown for decades past. His early speeches left no uncertainty as to his view, and it was evident that he intended to serve the people with a whole-souled conscience.—Joe Mitchell Chapple in "Affairs at Washington," in National Magazine for November.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

A woman can forgive a man for ceasing to love her if he will not stop making love to her.

There is scarcely anything that will get a woman talked about more than for her neighbors not to be able to discover what it is.—New York Press.